

★★★  
**NSCDA**  
 —PENNSYLVANIA—

# Connections

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HEADQUARTERS

By Jane Foster Willson, NSCDA/PA

100 candles on the cake!

Let's celebrate this milestone with all the joy, generosity, and love we can find for our house where we embrace history and honor today!

What is the history of our beautiful headquarters (HQ)? To establish the foundations of this, let's take a slight detour away from HQ – but don't worry we will be back on soon!



Mrs. Starr setting the Cornerstone with Towel in Hand! And not too much later, the building was opened. Newspaper clippings are in scrapbooks in the Library at HQ.

Our Society began with a tea party. 30 invitations were sent asking each recipient if she would consider being one of the founding members of an all-female society focusing on the preservation of colonial history.

The ladies were determined to do meaningful work, and in 1899, found their focus as stewards of Stenton, the home of James Logan, completed in 1730 and currently owned by the City of Philadelphia.

Stenton is an exemplar of historic house museums. It is interpreted over the 100-year period 1730-1839 when three generations of the Logan family lived there.

And as fabulous as it is, it could not also serve all the meetings and gatherings of a vibrant and growing NSCDA/PA!

Something more was needed.

And here we are! I promised to bring you back!

What is the story of Headquarters, 'our house'?

Responding to the need for more and different space, in 1919, NSCDA/PA purchased five houses on 1620-1630 Latimer Street and commissioned Ritter & Shay Architects to design a new building, our HQ, incorporating architectural references from the colonial architecture of Pennsylvania. Visual touchstones were selected from Stenton (King of Prussia marble surrounds the fireplace in the 1st floor Reception Room as it does in the Stenton Parlor),



Opening Day photo from Scrapbooks

Cliveden (the 1st floor column screen from the Chew family home in Germantown), and St. Peter's Church at 3rd & Pine Streets (the shape of the 2nd floor Assembly Room).

Funds were raised by selling bonds to the membership and construction was rapidly completed. Furnishings were donated – from the brass door knocker to

the tall case clock – all to be used and enjoyed by members and guests.

Here is how 'our house', HQ, differs from a historic house museum; it was never meant to be static.

Here, in outline, are some of the 'Broad Strokes' in the evolution of Headquarters:

- 1919-1922: Land was purchased, and HQ was constructed with the fountain courtyard;
- 1929: The middle garden and 1618 Latimer were purchased;
- 1937: 1632 Latimer was purchased for the library;
- 1945: The rear garden was purchased. Marian Coffin was commissioned to design the rear garden and to create a unifying design for all three gardens: the fountain courtyard, the middle garden, and the rear garden;
- 1950s: Windows were added in the loggia, the library in the 1632 building was renovated incorporating architectural references to Stenton.

Whew! As we celebrate Headquarters as our house on its 100th birthday, we are indeed grateful to the leaders and visionaries who have given us this beautiful building. We embrace their history and colonial history as we also celebrate the vibrancy of the NSCDA/PA today!



Contemporary Wedding

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Dear Fellow Dames,*

It's been quite a busy Fall season: committee and board meetings, two Stated Meetings, multiple Stenton programs, a successful James Logan Award Dinner, two public programs celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our Latimer Street Headquarters, and the NSCDA Biennial Council in Washington, DC. None of us knew what a post-pandemic world would look like, but apparently the return to over-scheduled calendars is one indication we have moved forward. While you will learn more about these events in this newsletter, I'd like to take a moment to thank our hard-working staff for everything they do to make all of this happen and happen smoothly. And of course, this includes our

dedicated Dames who volunteer time and show up in support. For me, the Biennial Council was preceded by the National Board Meeting. Part of my role as the president of the Pennsylvania Society is to chair the nominating committee of the National Board. We had several key positions to fill, and I was proud to present the slate of women from across the country for the 2022-2024 Executive Committee, which was approved unanimously during the Biennial Council. As the "founding state" of the NSCDA, I was honored to be the first flagbearer during the official presentation of colors, which kicks off the Council meeting. I am also grateful to my fellow-Dame delegates, alternates, and attendees (10 of us!) who represented Pennsylvania proudly. We were happy to renew old friendships and take away many new ones. I hope that we will have many PA



Dames at the next National Board Meeting in October of 2023. "Meet me in St. Louis!"

With Warm Regards,

*Mary Ann B. Wits*

**LANCASTER-DAUPHIN-YORK COMMITTEE NEWS**

By Carolyn L. Holt, Committee Chair

As is always the case, our Committee is so appreciative of the chance to share a "thing or two" about our activities, interests, programs...and friendship fostering!! Continuing to meet on a quarterly basis seems to be a solid plan, with intriguing speakers, sharing of time and talents at each meeting, and of course the friendships that continue to grow.

June 2022 brought us Dame Jane Foster Willson, who helped each of us learn more about our founding Dames, Headquarters, and the remarkable foresight these women had at the most challenging of social times for women. Jane did an outstanding job of bringing the history of Latimer Street to Lancaster and for that, we remain appreciative! Additionally, it added greatly to our perception that we are indeed a part of something bigger!

September was a celebration of new members, distinguished guests from our

PA State Society, and an award-winning presentation by the Rev. Dr. Mark Scheneman, rector of Bangor Episcopal Church in Narvon, Lancaster County (pictured below). Fr. Mark, as he is fondly known, took our Dames on the history of the Welsh, specifically in Pennsylvania. In short order, we were trudging not only the fields and dirt roads of Lancaster, but we were also traversing the hills and dales of the Main Line of Philadelphia. It was the perfect presentation for all in attendance and very well received.



These quarterly meetings give us a chance to learn, grow, and naturally enjoy social time. However, they have proven to be so much more. As we are growing in understanding and friendship, we are beginning to realize just how much our members do to help others, identify needs, and take action. As our recently deceased dearest of members Barbara Gillis often said, we need to have "boots on the ground", as much as anything. Much is happening: Meals on Wheels, church volunteering, other civic and historical society volunteering....and more, are being done each and every month. We now share these moments with each other and benefit from our collective experiences!

Please consider joining us in the future. We would be delighted to welcome Dames from across Pennsylvania and elsewhere!!

## HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

By Gwendolyn Bryant, Committee Chair

Like Gaul, the focus of the Historical Activities Committee is currently divided into three parts: the Book Club, the Oral History Project, and other activities such as National History Day and the Roll of Distinguished Service, which celebrates certain Dames of long-standing in our Society.

### Oral History Project

As many of you know, in 1996 or so, a group of women decided that they would participate in a national project to gather oral histories from Dames whose activities had deeply affected the Society or from Dames whose lives gave a glimpse into a world gone by. I am assuming this because there is no record of exactly why these women started the project, and I am not entirely sure which women they were, but I suspect they were Tenny Marshall and Eleanor Burgess.

In 2018, as Historical Activities Chair of the NSCDA/PA, I inherited a plastic container filled with cassette tapes, CDs, and transcriptions of interviews with some 14 Dames. There was little coherence in the material. It was interesting information, but not organized. It occurred to me that unless I did something, all these stories would stay in that plastic case forever. So, I decided to finish the project. Little did I know that I would just be finishing it up four years later.

My first idea was to interview a dozen or more Dames. but after taking a year to arrange, tape, transcribe, and edit just four interviews, I realized that, to complete the project, I should concentrate on organizing the existing information. I felt it important to put the wonderful interviews of these fascinating women in

a form that would make them available to future generations.

My husband, Stephen Bryant, took the data files and copied them into the cloud. These oral interviews were sent to Headquarters and are now safely stored permanently in the cloud storage archives of the PA Dames. To ensure that the interviews were accessible and concise, I cajoled my cousin, Carrie Crompton, a professional editor, into organizing the transcripts of the interviews so that they were easy to understand.

Per the board, I made sure that we secured legal permission from either the Dames interviewed, if living, or from their descendants, to publish the interviews in a booklet. Per the board, the booklet, and the oral interviews will be available only to other Dames and researchers who get permission from the Board and/or the PA Society President.

At present, I am writing the introduction and will send it off to our talented editor. The plan is for her to create a few booklets to be placed in our library. I want to thank all those who have helped me with this project.



### Book Club

Because my sister Cally Abdulrazak had been extolling me with tales of the book club she organized for the Massachusetts Dames, I decided to try to start one here



in PA. (Just a little competition there.) So, I asked Anne Burnett who gave enthusiastic permission, spoke to the board (at which time Lee Guertin graciously agreed to be co-chair), and asked Adriana Robinson to send out an email to our fellow Dames. The response was wonderful.

Since that time, our group of curious Dames has met many times. We have read more than 20 books and had stimulating meetings, great food from our fabulous hosts, and many laughs. Our only stipulation is that the meetings be fun and, if we disagree, we must do so with respect and a willingness to listen to each other. I sincerely thank and appreciate this amazing group of curious and thoughtful fellow Dames.

It has been a pleasure to serve.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Historical Activities Committee, contact Adriana at [adriana@nscdapa.org](mailto:adriana@nscdapa.org).

DEVELOPMENT

THE JAMES LOGAN AWARD DINNER

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

Dames and Stenton supporters gathered at the Union League on September 9 to celebrate the return of the James Logan Award Dinner after a four-year hiatus, partially due to COVID postponements. This year, the NSCDA/PA bestowed the award on three honorees: philanthropist, volunteer, and dedicated Stenton supporter, Hannah Henderson; retired director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Timothy Rub; and Richard Washington, founder, and director of Bringing Everybody Together, a youth mentoring organization that serves children in the neighborhoods of Logan and Nicetown. The Dinner grossed nearly \$240,000, the second highest total we have raised through the event! All proceeds will support the preservation of Stenton and NSCDA/PA educational programming, like History Hunters.



## SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANT TO SUPPORT PRESERVATION PROJECTS AT STENTON

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

In September, The National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute for Museum and Library Services announced \$24.25 million in Save America's Treasures grants to fund 80 projects in 32 states and the District of Columbia. "Through private and public investments, the Save America's Treasures program supports community-based preservation and conservation work on some of our nation's most important collections, artifacts, structures, and sites for the benefit of future generations," said NPS Director Chuck Sams.

Stenton was awarded a \$127,000 Save America's Treasures grant that will fund essential preservation projects on both the mansion and service wing. The grant matches a \$42,500 Keystone Historic Preservation grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, received last year. Together, these funds will cover the costs of completing the restoration of Stenton's dormers, begun in 2020, and painting the mansion, which was last undertaken in 2011. The second phase of the project will involve the re-



moval of coatings of cementitious stucco on three elevations of Stenton's Service Wing, the stabilization of early 19th-century historic stucco that survives on the building (especially noticeable on the courtyard-facing elevation of the greenhouse), and the application of new natural hydraulic lime stucco based upon stucco analysis by Andrew Fearon, a conservator formerly employed by Materials Conservation, Inc. The Service Wing

preservation project is also an important part of the plan to convert the building into an education center. Work is expected to begin in the spring of 2023.

Photo Caption: *Fairmount Park Conservancy Architectural Conservation Staff stabilized and partially restored the mansion dormers in March 2020.*



**GIVING TUESDAY**

Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that demonstrates how every act of generosity counts, especially when we give together. Please keep Stenton in mind this **Giving Tuesday, November 29th**. Donations will support the preservation of Stenton, outreach to our community, & our national award-winning educational program, *History Hunters*, which serves over 3,500 Philadelphia schoolchildren annually. On November 29th, make your donation here: [www.stenton.org/givingtuesday](http://www.stenton.org/givingtuesday).

## MUSEUM ALLIANCE

## LYDIA MORRIS' BEDSTEAD GIVEN TO DUMBARTON HOUSE

By Laura Keim, Curator, Stenton

From its inception, The NSCDA espoused the value of historic objects to tell people's stories. This summer, The NSCDA/PA deaccessioned a Federal-era bedstead that had furnished the Yellow Lodging Room at Stenton since the 1970s, giving it to Dumbarton House with a right-of-first refusal. The 2017 re-created flying tester bedstead displaced this non-Logan family bedstead to attic storage.

This gift transpired because Dumbarton staff invited Stenton Curator Laura Keim to join a historic interiors team considering a refurbishing of "Mother's Room" or the Best Chamber. The team sought a Philadelphia, Federal-era mahogany bedstead, and Laura thought that Lydia Morris' bedstead gift to Stenton a century ago would fit the bill. Coincidentally, the Dumbarton bedchamber includes a Charles Willson Peale portrait of Phoebe Pemberton Morris. Phoebe's grandparents (Samuel Morris and Rebecca Wistar) were Lydia Morris' great grandparents, which adds another layer of connection in the room. Sharing that the bedstead belonged to Lydia offers an opportunity to interpret her work as a philanthropic preservationist and as a founding Pennsylvania Dame in the context of the Society's National Headquarters.



*The bedstead is a Gift of the NSCDA/PA to the NSCDA in honor of founding member Lydia Thompson Morris (1849-1932). changes to the north elevation of the Stenton Wing.  
Photo by Will Brown, 2012.*

The bedstead simultaneously represents the Morris family and their connections to the Nourse family and Dolley Madison, while also conveying the more recent story of Dames preserving family and National histories through sites and objects like Lydia Morris' bedstead as a historic house object.

Lydia Thompson Morris (1849-1932), NSCDA-PA #28, is remembered for her philanthropy. She and her brother John helped start the Stenton Endowment Fund. The siblings lived at 826 Pine Street and at Compton in Chestnut Hill. They shared a love of art, travel, agriculture, and horticulture. Lydia be-

queathed the Paschall (her paternal grandmother's) family home Cedar Grove to Fairmount Park and their properties at Compton and Bloomfield to the University of Pennsylvania, which operates them as the Morris Arboretum. She also gave numerous family objects to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She served on the Furnishings Committee of the Stenton Committee and as a member of the Building Committee for Headquarters. She likely gave the bedstead to the Stenton collection in 1924, when "Mrs. [Miss?] Morris refurbished entirely one of the new bedrooms, gave the new curtains and fresh paint as well." Miss Lydia Morris had also "restored completely a room" in 1917. (Gifts to Stenton Mansion, 1901-1967 from NSCDA/PA Annual Reports). Lydia also gave Stenton Captain Samuel Morris' store desk, and her claw-and-ball footed drop-leaf table lives in the Reception Room at Headquarters.

Harrison Higgins Furniture Restoration in Richmond is building a new cornice for the bedstead, and Natalie Larson is fabricating the textiles for the redecorated room. Lydia's bedstead will have a new role to play and new stories to tell at Dumbarton House in 2023.

## STENTON SHORTS



**Left:** Stenton's 'Bee Well' program series, funded by Historic Germantown and the William Penn Foundation, utilized Stenton's greenspace this summer through an open hive talk, native pollinators presentation, yoga, and a garden mindfulness walk. **Right:** In September, the Dinah Mural was unveiled on the Rec Center in Stenton Park. There was a wonderful turnout of Dames and Stenton neighbors at this special event.



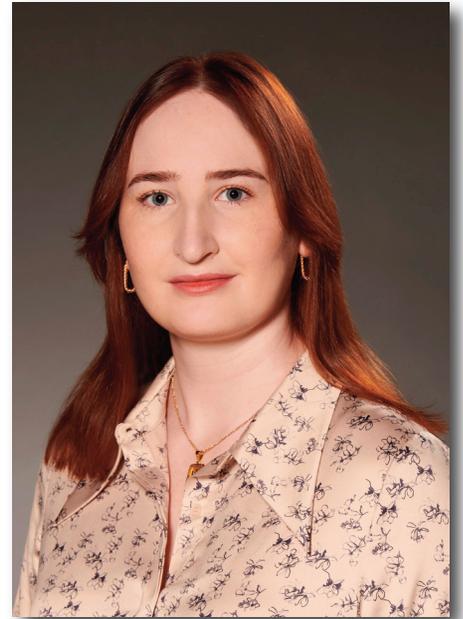
## MEET OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

## MUSEUM ALLIANCE

### Kaila Temple - Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II Curatorial Assistant

I joined the team this fall as the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II Curatorial Assistant at Stenton. I am a graduate of the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture and Smith College, and I have previously completed internships at Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Deerfield, and the Maine Historical Society. When I'm not examining an eighteenth-century quilt or under a piece of furniture, I can be found working on several unfinished needlework projects or eventing with my off the track thoroughbred, Spanky.

Over the next two years, curator Laura Keim and I will work to bring Stenton's collections online. By bringing the collection and its interpretation online, Stenton hopes to reach more community members, students, and researchers. Generous funding for my position and for the collections project has been provided by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II, the Richard C. Von Hess Foundation, and the Leonore Smart Wetherill Fund for Decorative Arts Scholarship at Stenton.



### Stephany Watts - Community Engagement Coordinator

Growing up just blocks away from Stenton, becoming its Community Engagement Coordinator is an exciting opportunity to return to my community and serve the neighborhood that my family has called home for five generations. In this role, I'm tasked with continuing the awesome work that Dennis Pickeral and the Stenton team have done over the years to ensure that near neighbors feel welcome and a sense of ownership over these grounds. I was once one of those people who passed by daily, unaware of the history Stenton held, convinced I had no place here. Through your generous support, I look forward to changing that narrative for future generations.



**Left:** Stenton hosted 'Form, Function, & Fabrication: Philadelphia Furniture' with Philip Zimmerman. Attendees spent the day studying Stenton objects up-close. **Right:** Stenton Committee Chair Dora Rogers led crafts at Stenton's Halloween Harvest Festival with the help of BET student volunteers. The event was a great success with the return of the spooky cellar! Thank you to all who donated and volunteer.



## MEMBERSHIP

## NEW NATIONAL LEGACY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ANNOUNCED:

The National Membership committee of the NSCDA announced a new membership drive during the recent Biennial Council, which focuses on Legacy members. (The competition will include all members who join between June 2022 and June 2024 and includes cash prizes.) The committee reported that almost 50% of Dames nationwide are over the age of 70. Here in PA we have been thinking about membership attrition and how best to attract younger members for some time now. We don't believe it's one solution, but many actions. First

and foremost, we believe cultivating a welcoming and inclusive group of women is the best start. It's why we've been so focused on expanding our ancestor eligibility qualifications and adding new names to our ROA. We don't value a legacy member over a new member; both have something unique to offer. But in the spirit of this "competition" announced by National... if you ever thought of inviting your sister, cousin, daughter, niece, or granddaughter into the fold... NOW is your time! For a wee bit of inspiration, here are three recent additions to

our membership roles that are helping us combat that aging membership average!

*Note: Legacy members don't require a "second" endorsement letter, just a proposal application and your one heartfelt letter. We can also access any PA legacy applications on file at headquarters. Additionally, if multi-family candidates/generations join at one time, we can offer a discounted rate on genealogy verification fees. Young Dames (birth to 18 yrs.) pay zero PA dues. Please send inquiries to Amanda membership@nscdapa.org or Mickey registrar@nscdapa.org*

## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH MEMBERS



**Gina Whelan & granddaughter Addie Whelan** - As a mother of sons, Gina was overjoyed when her granddaughter Adelaide Marabeth Whelan was born. She finally had a girl to share in her family tradition of NSCDA/PA membership. Addie became the seventh relation in this family to utilize the Samuel Appleton (MA) line. Gina was quite excited to fill out Addie's lineage application despite some significant genealogical updating. Her research work however, made it easy for Gina's cousin Caroline Nutt Linz to become a member this past April.

**Stacie Pagano & daughter Teddy Pagano** - As a new member who joined in early 2022, Stacie was excited to discover her young daughter Theodora Margaret could also join the NSCDA/PA. Teaching her daughter history is important to Stacie, as they descend from the esteemed George Ross (PA), a Provincial Assemblyman who was elected to the Continental Congress and is known for his signature on the Declaration of Independence. The best news is that Teddy will soon have company as her momma is about to give birth to a new Baby-Dame any day now!



**Kaelyn Clark & daughter Evelyn Taylor** - After many years working at Stenton, Kaelyn expressed interest in joining the Dames. She was a beloved member of the family, and we knew we would do our best to locate an ancestor that would allow her to stay a part of the Dames. It took some deep digging and presenting NH with a new ancestor request, but we were able to get Thomas Petit added to the ROA. When 13-year-old Evelyn learned that her mother was becoming a Dame, she wanted to know why she couldn't as well. After all, she was born not long after her mother's arrival at Stenton. She grew up running around the Colonial Revival Garden and attending all the Stenton events, it was an important part of her childhood. Evelyn thinks the best part of becoming a Dame is being able to spend time with her mother.



**NSCDA/PA 2022-2023 Calendar**

LANCASTER/DAUPHIN/YORK Meetings & Events

STENTON Events

STENTON Committee Meetings

1st Thursday of Every Month (except Jul & Aug)

National Meetings & Events

ALLEGHENY Meetings & Events

NSCDA/PA EVENTS

NSCDA/PA Board Meeting

2nd Friday of Each Month (except Jul & Aug)

2022	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
November	20	Sun	Thanksgiving Service & Tea	2:00 PM	Washington Memorial Chapel
	22	Tu	Books are My Disease: Loganian Library at the Library Company of Philadelphia	12:30 PM	Zoom
December	1	Thu	Garden Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	1	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton
	5	Sat	Stenton Holiday Tea	2:00 - 4:00 PM	Stenton
	7	Wed	LDY Meetings/Events: Christmas Gathering tour and luncheon	TBA	TBA
	16	Fri	Hesselius Portrait Program	2:00 PM	Zoom
	21	Wed	Christmas Stated Meeting and Concert	11:00 AM	Headquarters
2023	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
January	10	Tu	Allegheny County Committee Stated Meeting	10:30 AM	Pittsburgh Golf Club
	13	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Meeting	9:30 AM	Headquarters
February	8	Thu	Collections Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	8	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton
	14	Tu	Allegheny County Committee Board Meeting	10:30 AM	Center
	15	Wed	Stated Meeting: Marion Lane	11:00 AM	Headquarters
March	2	Thu	Garden Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	2	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton
	7	Tu	LDY Meeting/Events: Ephrata Cloister, Fact & Fiction	TBA	Lancaster Country Club
	10	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Meeting	9:30 AM	Headquarters
	15	Wed	Stated Meeting: Abigail Gruber, Centennial Exposition & the Founding of the Dames	11:00 AM	Headquarters
	15-16	Wed-Thu	National History Day Competition	TBA	Constitution Center
April	21	Tu	Allegheny County Committee Stated Meeting	10:30 AM	Pittsburgh Field Club
	7	Thu	Collections Committee Meeting	9:00 AM	Stenton
	7	Thu	Stenton Committee Meeting	10:30 AM	Stenton

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

**NEW MEMBERS**

CALVERT Joanne  
(Joanne Yundt)  
Ancestor: Anton Henckel, PA  
PA-7033

HAMMERSCHMIDT, DJ  
(Dorothy Jean Slocum)  
Ancestor: Jacob Haldeman, PA  
PA-7022

KEELY, Elizabeth  
(Elizabeth Everett)  
Ancestor: Nathaniel Gorham, MA  
PA-7016

KELLER-SCHWAB, Audrey Rose  
Ancestor: John Viets, CT  
PA-7025

KELLER-SCHWAB, Jennifer B.  
Ancestor: John Viets, CT  
PA-7024

LAMAC, Katie  
(Katie Meschter)  
Ancestor: Silas Newcomb, NJ  
PA-7020

LANIER, Jamie Cynthia  
(Jamie Cynthia Wise)  
Ancestor: John Whitney, MA  
PA-7021

LINZ, Mrs. Brian J.  
(Caroline Denison Nutt)  
Ancestor: Samuel Appleton, MA  
PA-7018

LOVERING, Barbara  
(Barbara MacFarland)  
Ancestor: William Wells, NY  
PA-7032

PAGANO, Theodora Margaret  
Ancestor: George Ross, PA  
PA-7031

PRITCHARD, Cynthia  
Ancestor: John Buckalew, PA  
PA-7019

TAYLOR, Evelyn  
Ancestor: Thomas Pettit, NH  
PA-7017

WEHLER, Anne  
(Anne Wirts)  
Ancestor: Laurence Van Buskirk,  
NJ  
PA-7023

**DECEASED**

FOOSKAS, Mrs. James  
(Ruth Armstrong Pike)  
Admitted: October 13, 1989  
Died: October 22, 2021  
PA-6125

GILLIS, Mrs. Dan Edward  
(Barbara Jaeger)  
Admitted: September 5, 2006  
Died: September 12, 2022  
PA-6550

HOFFMAN, Dr. Barbara L.  
(Barbara Ann Landis)  
Admitted: October 11, 1985  
Died: June 11, 2021  
PA-6016

LANDIS, Mrs. William B.  
(Margaret Boone Hunt)  
Admitted: October 11, 1968  
Died: November 9, 2020  
PA-3738

SCHIFFER, Mrs. Herbert F.  
(Margaret Berwind)  
Admitted: May 8, 1942  
Died: October 13, 2022  
PA-2669

SMYTH, Mrs. D. Grahame  
(Louisa Zimmerman)  
Admitted: May 9, 1986  
Died: July 30, 2022  
PA-6039

**RESIGNATIONS**

BOYD, Mrs. George  
(Sandra B. Barr)  
PA-6294

HANEY, Carroll G.  
(Carroll North Garner)  
PA-6868

MACDONNELL, Susan Adams  
(Susan Eckert Johnson)  
PA-6145

MCKNIGHT, Mrs. DeLoss  
(Anne Louise Bailey)  
PA-6117

MILLS, Hannah Laird  
PA-6810

VALIMAKI, Mrs. Jukka  
(Christina Elizabeth Helena Nelson)  
PA-6886

## BIENNIAL

The 64th Biennial Council of the NSCDA (Oct. 13-16) was held at the Omni-Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, preceded by the meeting of the National Board. Dames from 43 states and DC came together for a fast-paced few days full of meetings, workshops, and social events. Colonial Societies are given 5 votes each for Biennial Council business, while all other Societies have 1 vote each. Representing the PA Society as official voting delegates were Sally Wirts (president), Peggy Conver (1st VP), Mickey Herr (registrar), Gina Whelan (corresponding secretary), and Becky O'Conner (ACC member). Our alternate delegates were Barbara Wood (treasurer), Gwen Bryant (Historical Activities chair), and Carol Rush (Regent of Gunston Hall). Lee Guertin (2nd VP) and Mary Revenis also joined in the fun.

The Biennial started with a Welcome Reception at Hillwood Estate and ended with a Memorial Service and tour at Arlington Cemetery, with oh-so-much happening in between! During the Welcome Reception, we celebrated several honorees, including Edith Stickney of FL who received the Award for Generosity and Purpose, which has now been renamed in honor of former honoree and past NSCDA President Virginia Stuart Cobb. Several Societies received recognition for their work as recipients of the Lamar Award for Excellence. After celebrating our successes, we were free to roam the Hillwood estate, one of three homes owned by Majorie Merriweather Post. Post's penchant for all things Russian—which was ignited when the third of her four husbands became the American Ambassador to the Soviet Union—was on full view throughout the home, from portraits of Catherine the Great to Fabergé eggs! A special exhibition of Princess Grace's Dior Couture was also a highlight.



*Faberge Egg at Hillwood-  
Catherine the Great Easter Egg*

The opening session of the Biennial Council started Saturday morning at 8:15. Each chair reported on the activities of the various national committees. One of the most important and spirited discussions was around the proposed new structure for the National Board. This update will replace the four regional vice presidents with vice presidents of Advancement, Finance, Engagement and Mission. The goal is to help refocus the executive committee on mission while allowing the national headquarters Dumbarton House staff—under the leadership of Carol Cadou—to focus on operations. This initiative also reiterated that Dumbarton House is the main focus as our national headquarters, with the positions of “regent” of Gunstan Hall and Sulgrave still maintaining a place on the National Board, with a voice but no vote. With the official vote taken, the change was adopted and will be implemented in the 2024 Biennial cycle. The Saturday session ended with the official vote for the new 2022-2024 National Board Executive Committee as presented by our PA president Sally Wirts.

Saturday's business session was followed by several workshops, one of which fea-

## BIENNIAL RECAP

tured our PA Registrar Mickey Herr. Earlier in the day, a new initiative was announced: “Founding Females, 250 for 250.” This is the official NSCDA project in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding our country. The goal is to add 250 new female ancestors to our National Register of Ancestors by July 4, 2026. As a kick-off to this initiative, an educational session was held to discuss best approaches for identifying and qualifying our female ancestors. Mickey started the discussion by sharing the story of Dinah of Stenton and how the PA Dames expanded our eligibility qualifications and utilized the important work of Stenton staff to allow us to add Dinah as an official qualifying ancestor. The presentation sparked a lot of questions and expanded thinking!

Saturday evening included a cocktail reception and the blacktie Biennial Dinner which featured the inaugural presentation of the Award for Preserving History's Future to Charles H. Duell, president emeritus of Middleton Place Foundation, as well as an inspiring address from Lisa Sasaki, the interim director of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. The closing session started first thing Sunday morning with the announcement of a new Membership Drive and reports from each regional VP. Our own Gina Whelan was recognized as one of the newest Roll of Honor Recipients. And finally, it was reported that the incoming Executive Committee of the National Board had been voted-in unanimously and they were escorted to the dais to take their seats as the outgoing committee chairs greeted them and retired to the audience. The colors were retired and the 64th Annual Biennial Council was adjourned. While many Dames took advantage of the special events at Arlington National Cemetery, others were ready to head home after such a busy few days!



1) President Catherine Cammack, Edith Stickney, Stuart Cobb. 2) Black Tie Dinner at Biennial PA delegates & alternates.  
3) Biennial Founding Females announcement. 4) Hillwood staircase featuring Empress Catherine II.  
5) Mickey Herr presenting on Dinah.

**NSCDA/PA Staff**

Executive Assistant: Adriana Robinson  
 Curator: Laura Keim  
 Stenton Director: Dennis Pickeral  
 Director of Education: Rachel Corma  
 Facilities Manager: Kenneth J. Robinson  
 Community Engagement Coordinator:  
 Stephanye Watts  
 Curatorial Assistant: Kaila Temple  
 Stenton Site Managers: Dawn Reid and  
 Jeff Eckel

*About Connections...*

Copy Editors: Kaelyn Clark & Gina Whelan  
 Contributing Editor: Mickey Herr  
 Coordinator: Adriana Robinson  
 Layout: Rachel Corma  
 Printing: Affordable Offset



*Photo: Don Fennimore, Curator emeritus at Winterthur, stages the Rittenhouse clock for photographer Gavin Ashworth.*

The NSCDA/PA purchased the Rittenhouse Clock that stands in the Main Hall at Headquarters for Congress Hall, which they restored, furnished, and inhabited in the 1890s until 1916. Under the Committee of Thirteen, Elisabeth McClellan served as Secretary for the Clock Hunting Committee, which advertised the Society's desire for a genuine David Rittenhouse clock in November 1897. By March 16, 1898, the Dames owned their clock, debating its placement in Congress Hall. David Rittenhouse clearly offered "brand recognition" for late 19th-century antiques. The clock is included in a forthcoming Rittenhouse book by Don Fennimore and Frank Hohmann. Clock Conservator Lili von Baeyer will service the clock this coming year to keep it in good running order.

Headquarters (1921)  
 1630 Latimer Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
 215-735-6737  
 FAX: 215-735-1666  
 adriana@nscdapa.org  
 www.nscdapa.org

Stenton (1730)  
 4601 North 18th Street  
 (at Windrim Avenue)  
 Philadelphia, PA 19140  
 Phone/Fax: 215-329-7312  
 www.stenton.org  
 www.historyhunters.org  
 www.freedomsbackyard.com

General John Neville House  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
 412-921-4728

NSCDA Headquarters  
 www.nscda.org  
 Dumbarton House  
 2715 Que Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20007  
 202-337-2288  
 www.dumbartonhouse.org



The NSCDA/PA participates in Amazon Smile! With each purchase you make, a portion will be donated to us by Amazon. To sign up, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in PA as your charity. Then when you shop, make your purchases through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). It's that simple!



*Entrusted With History's Future*

**The National Society of The Colonial Dames  
 of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania**

**Mission Statement**

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is dedicated to preserving our State and National heritage through preservation of historic properties, conservation of antiquities and archives, education, scholarships, patriotism and respect for our Colonial ancestors whose distinguished service prior to 1776 and ideals are the foundation of our Country.

*Adopted by the Board of Managers, October 10, 2003*