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DID YOU KNOW?

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now has an online gift shop. Visit www.nscdapa.org/giftshop to order NSCDA/PA scarves, needlepoint kits, and other items such as the *Stenton Guide Book* and Instar Apiaries raw honey.



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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



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

COLLABORATION LEADS TO \$1 MILLION RACP AWARD FOR GERMANTOWN SITES

by Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

For nearly twenty years, Stenton has held an important leadership role in Historic Germantown (HG), fostering cooperation among 18 partner sites and working to build a strong consortium to help secure resources for its members. These efforts are paying dividends as HG was recently awarded several major grants thanks to collaboration. In the spring of 2020, Stenton, Wyck, and the Johnson House applied under HG's umbrella for funding from Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) to help support capital projects and preservation at the sites, including Stenton's goal of renovating the wing into an education and visitor center. HG's advocacy for our projects was critical to the effort, particularly with state Representative Stephen Kinsey and Senator Art Haywood, who supported the application. We learned in December that the sites were awarded one million dollars, the largest collaborative grant ever received by HG!



The Stenton Education Center project will benefit from the RACP award.

HG also applied to the William Penn Foundation in 2020 for a planning project focused on community engagement and equity, along with increasing access to green spaces at the member sites, an amenity that many of the sites have in abundance. The consortium was awarded \$85,000 for the "Activating Green Spaces" project, which will include pilot projects at Stenton and three other HG sites, and consultant support. HG used Stenton's *Dinah Memorial Project* as an example of successful community engagement in its grant application, and the "Activating Green Spaces" project provides a new opportunity for us to carry on this work.

Finally, HG was recently awarded \$30,000 from the Connolly Foundation to begin development of the *Science Sleuths* school age field trip program. *Science Sleuths* is a concept developed by Stenton's staff to expand our educational programs, modeled on *History Hunters*. The program will teach science to middle school students through an interdisciplinary curriculum that draws on the history, collections, and landscapes of Germantown's many historic sites.

In other development news, this year's Garden Party will be postponed until September, in the hopes that we might be able to hold an in-person event by that time. The James Logan Award Dinner has also been postponed until September 2022.



The natural history collection and scientific instruments at Wyck are an example of the content that Science Sleuths can draw on.

PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS

Dear Fellow Dames,

Welcome to a spring full of extra hope! The COVID-19 menace seems to be in retreat, and summer days beckon us to long-awaited places and long-dreamed adventures.

Today, I write my final "Two Cents" column, as my term ends and Sally Wirts succeeds me as the next NSCDA/PA President. Normally, I would thank those who encouraged me through my last three years. Instead, I will say a few words about Dame Anne Burnett, my predecessor.

Anne suffered a stroke on February 26th. She is breathing on her own and smiles at David when he is permitted to visit. However, it is—and will be—a long road for our dear Anne. She will need to muster all her energy, fortitude and smarts to return to us. May our gracious Lord indeed "heal all wounds."

Anne is currently our Communications Chair, who by late February would have mailed me a list of the upcoming articles in this issue of *Connections* with a suggested focus for this column. She always did it flawlessly, and warmly. We're eager to have you back with us, Anne, as we miss you terribly.

David, daughter and fellow Dame Carolyn, son-in-law Kyle Bell and son Craig are thankful to those of you who are reaching out with cards and notes in support of both Anne and the entire family. Baby Dame Claire Bell, and newest apple of Anne's eye, Graham Andrews Bell, born November 12, 2020, are most eager to have their grandmother "Bebe" back again.

Before closing, I want to give "shout-outs" to a few very special Dames. Thank you, **Anne Burnett**, for supporting my presidency in every way; I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks **Debbie Hamilton** for warmly welcoming me when I first became a Dame. **Carolyn Holt**, you are my true-blue friend. Thank you, **Gina Whelan**, for our laughs together and your wise counsel when needed. Thank you, **Sally Congdon**, for your cheer and constant support. Thank you, **Sally Wirts**, for the opportunity to chair the Logan Dinner together and so much more. Thank you, **Wylie Raab**, for your steady humor, Dames glamour, and doing the Bylaws. **Peggy Conner**, thanks for our shared love of Mister Rogers; I still use my mug. **Jane Foster Willson**, thanks for your description of the Dames as a "women's service organization." I now refer to it that way, too. **Dora Rogers**, thank you for being the other Mrs. Rogers and for your love of National. Dearest **Alice Lea Tasman**, thank you so very, very much for your sparkle, energy, wise words, love of the Dames, the Lord and me, too. You are the absolute reason I am a Dame.

Last but far from least, **Adriana Robinson**, thank you for always being there and assuring me that things are "all good." **Ken Robinson**, thank for your hugs. **Laura Keim**, thank you for stimulating my interest in preservation and for your friendship. **Rachel Corma**, thanks for being a vital part of Stenton. Last but certainly not least, thank you, **Dennis Pickeral**. You are truly "the man." Thank you for guiding the ship so adeptly with me in my three years. You are a true professional and I couldn't have done it without you.

My accomplishments as President are only that which may indeed prove themselves in the test of time and future health of the NSCDA/PA. I still plan to visit my friends in Pittsburgh. **Betsy Teti**, I'm sorry that hasn't happened yet.

Thank all of you for the extreme honor of being President of this wonderful, mission-focused organization. I've heard it said that "you fall in love with what you focus on." That happened with me. PA Dames, I love you!

Warmly,




Barbara Rogers, Anne Burnett, & Dora Rogers at Stenton's Holiday Tea December 2019

NSCDA/PA 2021 Calendar					
LANCASTER/DAUPHIN/YORK Meetings & Events		Development & Strategic Planning		ALLEGHENY Meetings & Events	
STENTON Events		National Meetings & Events		NSCDA/PA EVENTS	
STENTON Committee Meetings		LINEAGE Meetings		NSCDA/PA Board Meeting	
1st Thursday of Every Month (except Jul & Aug)		2nd Tuesday of Each Month (except Jul & Aug)		2nd Friday of Each Month (except Jul & Aug)	
DUE TO COVID-19, ALL DATES/LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE					
April	21	Wed	Virtual Stated Meeting- Speaker Christian Roden "History Setting Sail: Bringing Sweden to America"	10:30 am	Zoom Meeting TBD
May	6	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Zoom Meeting/Stenton TBD
	6	Thu	Virtual Stenton Garden Program	TBD	Zoom/Stenton TBD
	14	Fri	Board Meeting	9:30 am	Zoom Meeting/HQ TBD
	19	Wed	Annual Meeting and Elections- Speaker Sally Congdon "Sulgrave Manor"	10:30 am	Zoom Meeting TBD
June	3	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Zoom Meeting/Stenton TBD
	11	Fri	NSCDA PA Board Retreat	10:30 am	Zoom Meeting/Stenton TBD

THE NSCDA/PA NOMINATING COMMITTEE PUTS FORWARD THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF BOARD OFFICERS AND MANAGERS FOR 2021-2022, TO BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING:

Officers (8)		Managers (13)	
* Executive Committee (10)			
President *	Mary Ann B. Wirts	Allegheny County Committee Chair	Mary V. Odom
1st Vice President *	Margaret M. Conner	Lancaster/Dauphin/York Comm. Chair	Carolyn G. Holt
2nd Vice President *	Lee S. Guertin	Program Chair	Suzanne S. Ullrich
Recording Secretary *	Michele L. W. Thackrah	Development Chair	Alice Lea Mast Tasman
Corresponding Secretary *	Virginia J. Whelan	Headquarters Chair	Elizabeth M. Laurent
Treasurer *	Barbara S. Wood	Membership Chair	Lynn R. Salvo
Registrar *	Michelle L. Herr	Stenton Chair *	Dora L. Rogers
Historian*	Gayla J. McCluskey	Patriotic Service Chair	Julia S. Forbes
		Historic Activities Chair	Gwendolyn W. Bryant
		Governance *	Wylie G. Raab
		Manager At-Large	Margaret H. Sentman
		Manager At-Large	Lucy M. Strackhouse

Nominating Committee

- Anne L. B. Burnett, Chairman
- Elizabeth R. Marshall
- Lynn R. Salvo
- Virginia J. Whelan
- Barbara S. Wood

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

by Lynn Salvo, Membership Chair, NSCDA/PA

In this issue, we introduce you to two new members of our Pennsylvania Society. We hope you enjoy "getting to know" them, and that you might consider proposing women in your own families or circle of friends who are interested in our mission and activities. We encourage you to invite prospective members to attend upcoming virtual Stated Meetings, Stenton webinars and virtual programs. For more information about how to propose a member to our Society, please contact Lynn Salvo, Membership Chair, at lynnrsalvo@gmail.com.



New member, **Mickey Herr** has always lived her passions. After graduating from the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science (now Jefferson University), she landed in NYC and traveled the world, developing women's fashion accessories for major retailers. While living in Providence, she earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rhode Island. Returning to Philadelphia, a leap of faith found her moving into the historic Powel House to serve as site manager. This new path led to positions in development and communications at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Wilma Theatre Company. As a freelancer, Mickey has consulted on communications strategies and innovative programming across many of Philadelphia's cultural institutions. Recent projects include Hidden City Philadelphia, Wistar Institute, Mütter Museum, Roebing Museum, and PhilaLandmarks. A personal favorite was conceptualizing and producing "Shadow House" a fully immersive opera project inside the Powel House—a smash hit during the 2016

Philadelphia Fringe Festival. In 2012 Mickey became the co-author of *William Lewis, Esquire: Enlightened Statesman, Profound Lawyer, and Useful Citizen* which featured the life-long research of Esther Ann McFarland and her passion for Historic Strawberry Mansion. Later that same year, while housebound during a journey through Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia, Mickey discovered an interest in genealogy research which led to uncovering her family's previously unknown deep roots in America. She started a blog to share her research, and in the process discovered how important writing was to her recovery process. By early 2020, Mickey finally completed the 300+ year verification research between herself and her 8x-great grandfather, Philip Briscoe (b.1647) of Maryland, her NSCDA qualifying ancestor.

Today, Mickey is in full Leukemia remission living in Center City Philadelphia with her husband of 29 years, Chip, two cats, and a new puppy. She is at work on a novel, continues as a contributing writer to Hidden City Daily, and posts the occasional blog—especially photo-blogs—to her website mickeyherr.com. In May 2021, Mickey's essay "A Walker's Paradise" will be published by New Door Books in the anthology *Slow Going*.



New member, **Peggy Thomas McKnight** was born in Birmingham, Alabama and moved to Pittsburgh in her early teen years. She attended Tufts University and previously worked as a hand therapist, researcher, and consultant in the field of Rheumatology. She also served as an ad-

joint faculty member at the University of Pittsburgh.

Peggy became interested in the Colonial Dames at the urging of her sisters-in-law, Katherine Miller Thomas and Beatrice Crowden Bartlett, both long time Colonial Dames Members. Her husband's aunt, Alice McKnight Mackroth, and cousin, Ann Mackroth Hutchison, are also members. Keeping with family tradition, Peggy noted, "it seemed important for me to become a member of the Colonial Dames and continue this tradition for my daughters. I would love to have my daughters, Garland and Libby, join the Colonial Dames in their respective cities, as have two of their cousins. Family history is very important to our family and sharing this with future generations is important." Peggy's qualifying ancestor is Abraham Jarrett, who was born in Harford County, Maryland in 1735.

Peggy has long been active in Pittsburgh's civic leadership. She is active as a community volunteer for many non-profit organizations and currently serves on the board of Point Park University where she helped to spearhead the Capital Campaign for the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, the Performing Arts Center for the University. She is also a board member of the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium, and the Aspinwall Riverfront Park. In 2006, she and her husband led the capital campaign to raise funds to open Gilda's Club in the strip district, now known as Our Clubhouse, where she also served as a board member until 2017. Peggy is also a member of the Women's Committee of the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Garden Club of Allegheny County.

She and her husband Steve, a real estate developer, have three adult children. Libby is married and living in New York City, Steve is marrying in July and resides in Miami, and Garland resides in Greenville, South Carolina.

LANCASTER-DAUPHIN-YORK NEWS

By Bobbi McMullen, Past Committee Chair

On February 2nd, the LDY Committee held their second online meeting. This time we "Zoomed" with no technical difficulties. The meeting opened with the normal Dames ritual. The naturalization committee has been busy after in-person ceremonies resumed in July, September, and November, with the committee welcoming 18 new citizens in both July and September.

The LDY Committee contributed \$1000 to the National's Comprehensive Capital Campaign. Elections were held for the positions of Committee Chair and Committee Treasurer. **Carolyn Holt** was elected Committee Chair and **Sara Hodge** Committee Treasurer. No program was held at this time and future meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, 2021 and Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

The gavel was passed to new Chair Carolyn Holt, and we are all anxiously awaiting when we may meet again in person.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMITTEE NEWS

By Betsy Teti, Committee Chair



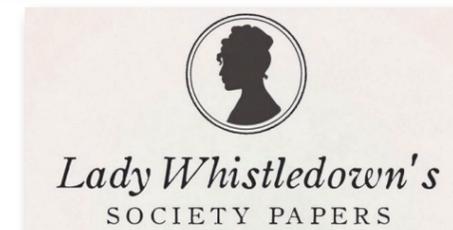
Allegheny County Committee Dames enjoyed an informative virtual program on February 9th. We were so pleased to work with the wonderful Stenton staff who arranged the logistics. "Ochre, Old Fustic, and Maple: Reinstating Color, Texture and a Flying Tester Bedstead in Stenton's Yellow Lodging Room" was presented by Laura Keim, Curator of Stenton. Laura provided an in-depth view into the painstaking research required to make this project such a stunning success. Her presentation allowed our Dames from the western part of Pennsylvania the ability to "see" a

part of Stenton in detail. The program had a particular connection to our committee as our own ACC Dame, Anne Genter, was instrumental in securing funds from the Richard C. von Hess Foundation that helped to make this project possible.

The ACC was pleased to open the program to the entire State membership, and we were delighted to have 33 participants. Many thanks to Dennis Pickeral, Rachel Corma, and Laura Keim from Stenton who made this meeting so successful. It was a great way for our committee to reconnect with each other and experience such a fine program.

BRIDGERTON-INSPIRED STYLE SHOOT AT HEADQUARTERS

by Fox Photography LLC



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW MEMBERS

MCKNIGHT, Peggy
Ancestor: Abraham Jarrett, MD
PA-6992

WETHERILL, Janice.
(Janice Sue Nestle)
Ancestor: John Brubaker, PA
PA-6985

WHELAN, Adelaide Marabeth
Ancestor: Samuel Appleton, MA
PA-6993

DECEASED

BAILEY, JR., Mrs. Robert Selfridge
(Wendelyn Long Cupitt)
Admitted: October 8, 1993
Died: March 3, 2021
PA-6222

CUMMINS, Sue Ellen
(Sue Ellen Gibbs)
Admitted: November 9, 2019
Died: February 22, 2021
PA-6959

RESIGNATIONS

AMSTERDAM, Mrs. David
(Holly Miller)
PA-6645

MUSEUM ALLIANCE

MUSEUM ALLIANCE

2ND CUP CONVERSATIONS

By Dora Rogers, Stenton Committee Chair, NSCDA/PA & Rachel Corma, Director of Education, Stenton



It may not seem possible, but there has been an upside to this Covid-19 Pandemic. Organizations and people have sought ways to keep their members and the public engaged and educated. With Zoom and comparable systems, we are able to connect with each other and a much broader audience - even worldwide!

The Great American Treasures (GAT) website, the NSCDA's ambitious Museum Alliance project, launched in May during the early stages of the pandemic. Stenton is one of those Great American Treasures that can now be accessed on the GAT website. This alliance has sparked new collaborations as members

of GAT have reached out to each other about doing remote presentations. A wonderful example of this collaboration comes from The Powder Magazine in South Carolina. Completed in 1713, The Powder Magazine is South Carolina's oldest government building. The building was used as an arsenal from 1713-1748 and during the American Revolution in order to defend the city. The Powder Magazine's "2nd Cup Conversations" program series invites NSCDA sites from all over the country to share their history with new audiences on Zoom. Some recently featured sites include Gunston Hall (VA), the Burgwin-Wright House (NC), and Stenton (PA). Executive Director Dennis Pickeral introduced viewers to

Stenton's history, collections, and the Dinah Memorial Project.

We all know and appreciate Stenton and all that our team there does. With programs like the NSCDA-SC Powder Magazine's "2nd Cup Conversations", others will know about Stenton, Travelers Rest in Tennessee and other Dames' sites that they may never have a chance to visit. Yes, something good has come from the current situation. We thank the staff at The Powder Magazine for creating this fantastic series and look forward to more collaboration in the future. Make sure to visit www.powdermagazine.org/programs to register for upcoming 2nd Cup Conversations.

OUR OLDEST GREAT AMERICAN TREASURE

By Sally Congdon, Senior Representative to the Sulgrave Manor Trust

This year, Sulgrave Manor, the longest continuously supported museum property by the NSCDA, celebrates its 100th year open to the public! While individual Corporate Societies may have undertaken museum property preservation projects earlier, Sulgrave Manor was the first Nationally supported historic house. Built in 1539 by Lawrence Washington, fifth great grandfather of George Washington, it is the oldest and only overseas museum property supported by the NSCDA. It is currently owned and managed by the Sulgrave Manor Trust.

Sulgrave Manor is now a member of the newly established NSCDA Museum Alliance, Great American Treasures. The GAT website showcases each participat-

ing site within specially curated collections based on common themes, and Sulgrave Manor is included in the first curated collection: The Colonial Continent 1539 - 1844. Once it is safe to travel again, GAT offers a wonderful way to plan your next getaway, whether it be to a nearby NSCDA site or across the pond to 'discover the Founding Father's Forefathers'. Until then, I urge you to explore these treasures from the comfort of your home through beautiful images, artifacts, and stories all available online. Visit the Sulgrave Manor GAT page to discover what tiny object they found in the walls during restoration, and why it was there. There is so much to learn and see, and it all begins at

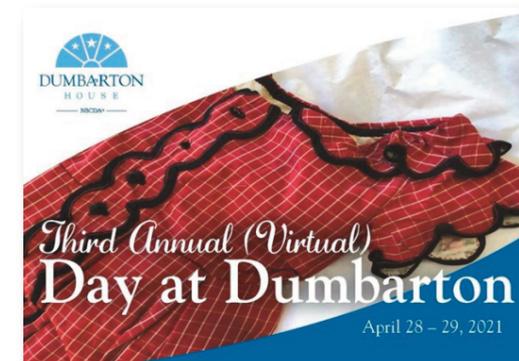
www.greatamericantreasures.org.



INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE? PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING ON MAY 19TH, FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY SALLY CONGDON ABOUT THE PAST AND PRESENT OF SULGRAVE MANOR IN HONOR OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

DUMBARTON HOUSE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

By Peggy Shaver, Lady of Dumbarton, NSCDA/PA



Thank you all for your steadfast support of Dumbarton over the past year. The office and museum remain closed to in person visits in accordance with Washington, D.C. government guidelines, but will open as soon as allowed. Staff continue to work remotely.

Dames Day is April 28-30 and is virtual. The theme is 'historic clothing' and features lectures, a yoga session, and a workshop on making your own 'cocktail hat,' just in time for the Stenton Virtual Garden Program on May 6. To register, go to the March 1st issue of eDispatch sent to your inbox or to the Dames website (www.nscda.org).

STENTON SHORTS

Left: On November 17, Stenton Curator Laura Keim presented "An Atlantic Life: James Logan of Lurgan and Philadelphia" webinar to an international audience! Laura connected with the Lurgan Townscape Heritage Initiative in Ireland to introduce James Logan and Stenton to residents of his birthplace. Over 80 people attended. Right: Stenton Caretaker and Yoga Instructor Dawn Reid led 3 virtual yoga classes from Stenton. Over 20 people participated in the Virtual Winter Wellness Series. Visit www.stenton.org/programs to view past Virtual programs.



Left: On February 23, Stenton debuted the film "Remember My Name: Dinah's Story" written by Robert Branch and performed by Irma Gardner-Hammond and Marissa Kennedy, followed by a panel discussion. You can view the performance and panel at www.stenton.org/dinah. Right: On March 26, Stenton hosted the "Historic House Museums in the 21st Century: Reimaginings and New Solutions" webinar with Donna Harris, Ken Turino, and Max van Balgooy. Over 160 people from across the country attended.