

STENTON IS A GCA FOUNDERS FUND FINALIST!

By Dennis Pickeral, Executive Director, Stenton

In October 2014, the Wissahickon and Weeders Garden Clubs, in partnership with our museum property Stenton, submitted an application to the Founders Fund of the Garden Club of America. The GCA Founders Fund is awarded annually to a GCA club for an exceptional community project. The winner will receive a \$30,000 grant in support of the project. We were excited to learn in January that Stenton's project has been chosen as one of three finalists that will be voted upon nationally in the coming months! Betsy Crowell, GCA Zone V Founders Fund Representative, Mary Jane Greenwood, President of the

Wissahickon Garden Club, Carolyn Adams of the Wissahickon Garden Club, and Marilyn Sprague, President of the Weeders Garden Club, were all most helpful in preparing the application and have been strong advocates of the project.

Our Founders Fund project proposes creating a meadow at Stenton, as part of a larger plan to rejuvenate Stenton's historic landscape. This Landscape Rejuvenation Plan was launched during the Garden Club of America's centennial celebration in 2013 (Stenton's colonial revival garden hosted the first annual GCA meeting in 1913). Founders Fund support would ensure the design and construction of the new meadow,

selection of historically and environmentally appropriate plantings, and the development of new educational materials.

The meadow project is inspired by the central role Stenton played in our country's rich horticultural history, and will help visitors better understand this story. The proposed meadow will frame a newly restored entry drive and represent the expansive agricultural fields that historically surrounded the house, recreating an important visual element of the 18th century landscape that has been lost.

The meadow will also help Philadelphia schoolchildren participating in the History Hunters program link the history of Stenton's landscape to urban farming and land use in our community today, to achieve learning objectives of sustainability, healthier eating options, and environmentally friendly practices. Students will also learn about composting through hands-on activities and connect the practice to these objectives. Most of these students have little access to green space. We anticipate environmental benefits from the meadow as well, such as increased pollination and new habitat for flora and fauna, creating a diverse new ecosystem in a dense urban neighborhood.

This project will be ready to move forward with Founders Fund support. The proposing and seconding garden clubs will work with staff gardeners and other volunteers to help install and maintain the meadow. Stay tuned: we welcome your participation!



Top: Panoramic photo of the proposed Meadow Area, as is 2014. Bottom: Computer generated image of the proposed Meadow Area.

PROGRAMS

CHARLES SPENCER TALK A GREAT SUCCESS

More than 110 members and guests turned out at NSCDA/PA Headquarters on January 23rd for a very special program, luncheon and book-signing, featuring distinguished author and guest-speaker Earl Charles Spencer, discussing his new book *Killers of the King: The Men Who Dared to Execute Charles I* (Bloomsbury.)

Charles Spencer was introduced by NSCDA/PA Past President and Friends of Sulgrave Manor Honorary Trustee Alice Lea Tasman. The two first met at last summer's Sulgrave Day in England, where they exchanged business cards. Upon confirming a January book tour stop at Drexel University, Spencer contacted Mrs. Tasman via his publicist, offering to present a talk to our organization, ~which we eagerly accepted! This marks the second presentation to Colonial Dames for Charles Spencer, the Ninth Earl Spencer, who spoke at the Sulgrave Day celebration as well.

As described in advance reviews, *Killers of the King* is "a powerful tale of revenge from the dark heart of England's past, and a unique contribution to seventeenth-century history." Speaking to a rapt audience in our 2nd floor ballroom, Spencer shared some of the shocking stories of the men "who dared to assassinate a monarch," including several who found their way to the American

colonies to live in hiding, pursued across the ocean by agents of the crown.

Spencer, the brother of the late Diana, Princess of Wales, is a journalist and former reporter for NBC's Today show. A direct descendant of King Charles I, he was educated at Eton College and obtained his degree in modern history at Magdalen College, Oxford. He is the author of four

books including *Blenheim*, *Battle for Europe* (shortlisted for the British National Book Awards History Book of the Year.) He lives in Northampton, England and southern California.

January's program was indeed an exciting way to kick off the new year in the NSCDA/PA!



Top left: (L-R) Dora Rogers, Anne Burnett, Earl Charles Spencer, Alice Lea Tasman, Sally Congdon & Sharon Holt; Top right: Cathy & Gene Pasmowski; Bottom Left: Barbara Cauffman with daughters Susan Butterworth (left) and Mary Hastings (right); Bottom right: Laura Keim with Elise Carr

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our **April 15th Stated Meeting** program will feature a presentation by "John Bartram" (portrayed by Kirk Brown.) NSCDA National President Marcy Moody will be our special guest. You won't want to miss this meeting!

April 17 Stenton Workshop:

Dowels, Dovetails, Though-tenons, and Stretchers:

Deconstructing Philadelphia Queen Anne Chairs

Lecture and Workshop featuring Philip Zimmerman and Laura Keim April 17, 2015, 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., Reservation Required Tickets are \$50.00, fee includes lunch. To purchase tickets online, please visit www.stenton.org. You can also reserve tickets by calling 215-329-7312, or via email, programs@stenton.org.





As I write this column in February, the forecast calls for single digits. Brrrr. I hope you've been staying warm. Spring, and our annual Stenton Garden Party, will be here before you know it. (More about that in this issue.)

As you'll read, there has been plenty to keep us busy this past fall and winter, regardless of the weather. Hosting our most successful fund-raising gala ever and

our first international scholarly conference, attending Biennial, welcoming new members, welcoming Earl Charles Spencer... -our Committees and our outstanding staff have been working hard, and accomplishing much! Your dedication, enthusiasm, and long hours are inspiring, and we are well on our way to achieving the goals we set in 2012 at the start of our five year Strategic Plan.

But there's much still to be done, and a vital part for you to play - large or small - as a member of NSCDA/PA. We'll be looking to you for input on communications, governance, programs, to name a few project areas. We hope to become acquainted or 'reacquainted' with your interests and skills, and to talk about how you'd like best to participate and serve. Today's world offers more creative ways than ever before to communicate and participate, but it can be a struggle to maintain balance just the same. So we'll be working with you to better accommodate your schedules, supporting you in your efforts to support our mission.

As we thaw out this month, and gear up for warmer days ahead, I extend a warm welcome to each of you, to share your ideas, thoughts, questions, and to join us for some of the wonderful programs and projects in store this year. And do circle your calendars for next month's Stated Meeting, Wednesday April 15th, where we'll welcome our very special guest Marcy Moody, National President, NSCDA.

Yours most sincerely,

Anne L. B. Burnett

NSCDA/PA Staff

Executive Assistant: Adriana Robinson

Curator: Laura Keim

Stenton Director: Dennis Pickeral

Museum Educator: Kaelyn Barr Taylor

Museum Assistant: Kevin Lynch, Jr.

HQ Facilities Manager:

Kenneth J. Robinson

Stenton Site Manager: Lauren Griffin and Martina Plag

Stenton Head Gardener:

Lauren Griffin

Stenton Housekeeper:

Madeline DiPasquale

Stenton Resident: Jeffrey Story

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The Dames Connections is published by the NSCDA/PA at 1630 Latimer Street, Philadelphia, PA. Send articles and suggestions to Erin Robson at any time.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COMMITTEE NEWS

By Genevieve Ebbert, Committee Chair & NSCDA/PA 4th Vice-President

Our annual meeting in January has traditionally been an Open Stated Meeting to which spouses, partners and guests are invited. We were thrilled this January to have three of our Pennsylvania Society Board members from Philadelphia as our guests: our President Anne Burnett, Past President (and now National Treasurer) Dora Rogers and V-P Museum Properties Chair, Carol Rush. Appropriate to our County Committee's "18th Century Revisited!" theme this year, the topic was "18th Century Music." We were privileged

to have as our main performer, Anna Singer, of WQED Radio, Pittsburgh. Ms. Singer is the principal Programmer for the public radio station as well as a midday host. In addition, she is a recognized professional vocalist.

Along with Ms. Singer, other performers included Donald Kortlandt and Raymond Blackwell. Mr. Kortlandt is a trumpeter as well as the principal attorney for the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Mr. Blackwell is a professional pianist in addition to advancing his graduate education. The three performers totally entertained us with their 18th Century music program!

The topic for our March meeting is "18th Century Clothing and Jewelry." We are delighted that two of our Dames will be the speakers and presenters. Anne Genter will share her 18th Century family jewelry, and Sally Randall will present two DVDs on period clothing from Historic Deerfield.



MUSEUM PROPERTIES

THE FRIENDS OF SULGRAVE MANOR'S ANNUAL MEETING AND "THE SULGRAVE SYMPOSIUM" - OCTOBER 2014

By Mrs. Donald W. Street (Lisa), Associate Trustee, Friends of Sulgrave Manor

The Friends of Sulgrave Manor's Annual Meeting was held from October 13-15, 2014 at the Ritz Carlton in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the official yearly meeting, a number of Trustees and guests were privileged to attend "The Sulgrave Symposium-Evaluating 200 Years of a Remarkable Partnership." The symposium highlighted the history and joint contributions of the U.S. and U.K. in the areas of diplomacy, government, and academia, while exploring the "British" character of early America through the U.S. Civil War. Elizabeth Hobbs, along with Sue Knepper, served on the Symposium Committee. A big thank you to both of them! In October, Elizabeth stepped down as the Pennsylvania Associate Trustee for the Friends of Sulgrave Manor and stepped UP to Corresponding Secretary as a Trustee. Both Elizabeth and I are grateful for the support of our Pennsylvania Dames!

For the Symposium, in commemoration of the Bicentennial of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812 and led to the long lasting peace and friendship between the United States and Great Britain, a series of events were planned. This wonderful event was co-hosted by Mt.

Vernon, the Friends of Sulgrave Manor and George Washington University. It included such programs as...

*A Bicentennial to Commemorate: How the Peace of Ghent (1814) Helped to Turn the United States into a Great Treaty-Worthy Nation, presented by Eliga Gould and *A World on Fire: An Epic History of Two Nations Divided presented by Amanda Foreman

Other noted presenters included: Lady Jill Knight, Trevor Potter, Stephen Saunders Webb, Steven Pincus, and Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy. A roundtable discussion was led by Dr. Douglas Bradbury, Founding Director, of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

Following the Symposium, the Friends of Sulgrave Manor held their annual meeting. In addition to meetings of the Trustees and Associate Trustees, highlights included enjoying dinner together at the Sulgrave Club in Washington, D.C., traveling to Mt. Vernon and laying a wreath at Washington's Tomb, and touring the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. A return to Alexandria, Virginia, via boat, culminated with a lovely time at two private homes in Old Town Alexandria and dinner at Gadsby's Tavern.

In the fall of 2015, the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio.



GUNSTON HALL TO CELEBRATE THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE MASON'S VIRGINIA DECLARATION OF RIGHTS IN 2016

By Kristin Smith Cahn von Seelen, Pennsylvania Regent to Gunston Hall

The Virginia General Assembly has proclaimed 2016 the Year of the Virginia Declaration of Rights (VADR), honoring George Mason's document for its influence upon our nation's Bill of Rights and many state constitutions. This marks an auspicious start for the Staff and Board

of Regents of Gunston Hall, Mason's Fairfax County home, as we plan for next year's celebration of the VADR's 240th anniversary. As a member of the VADR 240th Committee, I am delighted to report promising discussions with Jeffrey Rosen, Director of the National

Constitution Center (NCC) in Philadelphia, regarding collaboration on a commemorative event.

A current NCC exhibit, 'Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights,' displays a facsimile of the

Continued on page 10

DAMES GIVING BACK

Our Society has grown into a strong and thriving organization thanks to the enthusiasm, dedication and generosity of our membership over the last century. Members can give in many ways, by volunteering, by sharing their skills and networks, and of course, through financial contributions. There are numerous examples of this generous spirit each year; some recent gifts are highlighted below.

- In the spring of 2014 we received a challenge from one of our members, who wishes to remain anonymous, offering to match up to \$9,000 in other contributions from Dames, toward our \$10,000 1:1 matching grant from PHMC for archeology work at Stenton. Many members responded to this appeal, but we received one extraordinarily generous contribution from Past President Martha Lewis, who gave \$15,000 toward the project!

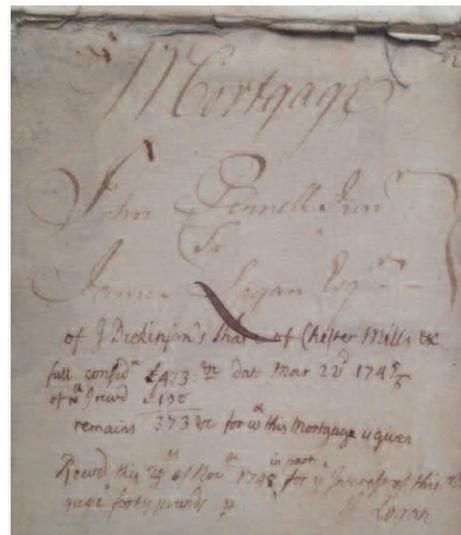
- NSCDA/PA Board Member Betsy Marshall purchased a 1746 property deed referencing the last will and testament of

merchant Jonathan Dickinson, with James Logan acting as Executor. The deed contains James Logan's signature and handwriting. Betsy has donated the deed to Stenton, where it now resides in the archives.

- Former Stenton Committee Member Eleanor Sayre, who helped assemble the exhibit of farm tools in the Stenton barn, has been a weaving enthusiast

for many years, and recently donated a c.1830 loom to Stenton. The loom will be exhibited in the barn and serve as a new teaching tool used in the History Hunters program.

We are so grateful to these ladies for their generosity and appreciate all of the time, talent and treasure that our members have given over the years!



STENTON SHORT SUBJECTS

Stenton's annual Halloween event was a little less spooky this year. Held on October 25th, Stenton had 150 visitors come to enjoy a beautiful fall day of fun. There were fall themed crafts and goodies, and all enjoyed the crisp fall sunshine in Stenton's courtyard. Special thank you to Anne Burnett, Kristin Cahn von Seelen, Betsy Marshall and Carol Rush for volunteering at the event, as well as to all who donated treats and materials for the day.



James Logan and the Networks of Atlantic Culture and Politics, 1699-1751, drew over 100 participants to Stenton on Saturday Sept. 20, 2014. The Stenton component of the conference was sponsored by the Leonore Smart Wetherill Fund for Decorative Arts Scholarship. Organized in partnership with the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Penn's McNeil Center for Early American Studies, it serves as a model for historic houses to provide meaningful venues for circulating historical scholarship to a wider public



Top left: Record attendance at the James Logan Conference in September required the use of multiple tents at Stenton. Here, Dennis Pickeral presents research during a morning session. conference organizers to conference attendees. Top Right: Trina Overlock, Audrey Abbott, Carol Gould, and Carol Rush preview the Logania exhibit. Right: Conference attendees tour Stenton during an afternoon break.



MUSEUM PROPERTIES

SAVE THE DATE: STENTON GARDEN PARTY, MAY 14

By Carol Rush, Stenton Committee Chair

Planning has begun for the annual Stenton Garden Party! As our invitation suggests, there is work going on in the garden:

- As you read on page 1 of this issue, the Garden Club of America has selected Stenton as one of three finalists for their Founders Fund award! At this year's party, we hope to be able to announce our placement—First, Second, or Third—and let you know more about our Urban Meadow project.

- By mid-May, Stenton's Colonial Revival Garden will be under construction! Thanks to a generous grant from the McLean Contributionship and contributions from the Weeders Garden Club, the Wissahickon Garden Club, and the Philadelphia Garden Club, the rejuvenation we have been planning will become a reality. Come follow our progress as we run water to the garden, reestablish the outer paths through the John Casper Wister-designed native plant screen, redefine the inner

paths through the boxwoods, and replant the flower beds.

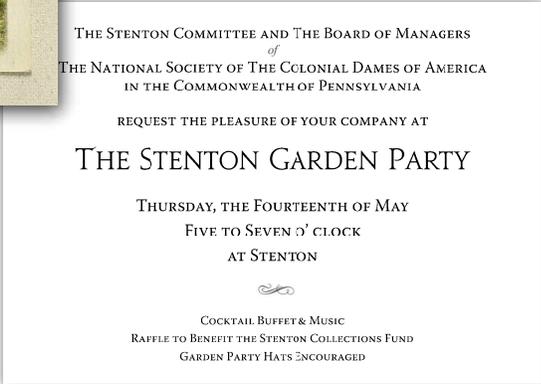
In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts exhibit *The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism and the Garden Movement, 1887 - 1920*, Dr. Anna Marley, editor of the exhibit catalogue, will



be signing copies. The exhibit and catalogue tell the intertwined stories of American art and the American garden movement, of which the Dames' construction of Stenton's Colonial Revival Garden is an excellent example.

The mansion will be open during the Garden Party, and you are encouraged to explore the ongoing *Logania: Stenton Reassembled* exhibit, which brings objects with Logan provenance to Stenton from Independence National Historical Park, PHMC, the Philadelphia History Museum, and private collectors. The mansion is full of rarely seen objects that contribute to the story of James Logan.

As always, the Committee is planning for its legendary cocktail buffet. Look for your invitation in the mail soon! We hope you can join us.



STENTON SHORTS (CON'T) ...

New Dog at Stenton: Meet Brodie! Last summer, Stenton bid a sad farewell to our faithful canine-caretaker, Logan. In January, Stenton adopted a new site-friend: a Rottweiler mix named Brodie. He is about a year old, has lots of spunk and energy, and he is very friendly. Martina Plag, one of Stenton's onsite caretakers, has been working with Brodie regularly to train him for the site. Welcome, Brodie!



Stenton's Annual Holiday Tea took place on December 6th. About 80 visitors came to the event, and all thoroughly enjoyed the festivities. This year, we made "popcorn snowmen" with plastic cups and ribbon. Everyone agreed the event was full of holiday cheer! Special thank you to Katy Drinkwater and Anne Claghorn for volunteering at the event, as well as the



many Dames who donated cookies and tea sandwiches to the event. Your homemade goodies make this event so special!

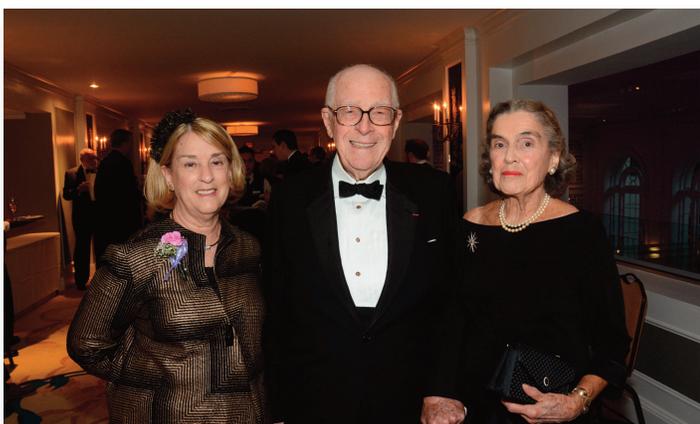
JAMES LOGAN AWARD GALA HONORS DODO HAMILTON

The Society held its biannual James Logan Award Gala on September 19, 2014 at the Warwick Raddison Blu, honoring long-time Dame and philanthropist Dodo Hamilton. Over 225 turned out to honor Mrs. Hamilton and recognize her selfless dedication to Philadelphia's schools, hospitals, the arts, horticulture, and historic preservation projects. Honorary Co-Chairs Alice Lea Tasman and Dora Rogers presented the award to Mrs. Hamilton, who spoke fondly of her long association with the Dames and her pride in our efforts to preserve Stenton and educate the public through programs like History Hunters. Following the award presentation, Stenton Committee Chair Carol Rush and Stenton Director Dennis Pickeral debuted a new video about the History

Hunters program, now posted online at www.historyhunters.org. The evening concluded with a musical performance by students from the Curtis Institute.

The gala was by far our most successful to date, netting over \$90,000! All proceeds will benefit the Stenton Education Center and Stenton Landscape Rejuvenation project. Many generous sponsors gave in support of the event, including 17 corporate sponsors and 33 individual sponsors. We are particularly grateful to our William Penn sponsors, Bryn Mawr Trust, Main Line Health, and Nancy Coates; and our Benjamin Franklin Sponsors, Glenmede Investment and Wealth Management, Jefferson, the Trustees of The University of the Arts, the Hamilton Family and Nicholas and Shelley Schorsch.

A dedicated team of Dames worked together to ensure the success of the gala. Honorary Co-Chair Alice Lea Tasman worked tirelessly to secure sponsorships. Linda Anderson most ably chaired the event and ensured all of the details were just right. Gina Whelan created the peacock design motif that adorned the invitations and program, and Anne Markle designed the gala program. Lee Manonian, Colleen McCauley, and Carrie Griffith secured more than 60 items for the silent auction. Many other gala committee members, too numerous to name here, gave generously of their time and energy. Thank you to everyone who supported the gala, making it a truly special evening that we'll remember for years to come.



1.) Gala Honorary Co-Chairs Dora Rogers (with husband Rob, at left) and Alice Lea Tasman (with husband Bill, at right) flank gala honoree and 2014 James Logan Award Recipient Dodo Hamilton; 2.) Adriana and Kenny Robinson; 3.) Amanda Muckle with Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Markle, III; 4.) Past James Logan Award recipient Jane Pepper (at right) with guests; More gala photos available soon, with the launch of our new NSCDA/PA website later this spring.

PATRIOTIC SERVICE

CITIZENSHIP

By Dorothy Hocker, Citizenship Committee Chair

Our New Citizens Committee attends two New Citizens Swearing In ceremonies each year at the Federal Court House, in the fall and spring. We present the NSCDA Parade of Flags program, that provides a brief explanation of each flag's place in American history.

After the new citizens are sworn in we congratulate each one and welcome them to their new country with a gift bag containing an American flag, an American flag pin and for the children, a coloring book and other small items. We ask local schools to attend and share in the experience. The program lasts about 2 hours and there are usually 80-90 people from as many as 40 countries. The sense of citizenship fills the room when the candidates have completed their four year journey.

As Chairman of the Committee it gives me such a feeling of pride and honor to see

the smiles on the faces of those who have been sworn in. They have taken the same journey as our ancestors did before us. I hope that our new members will consider joining us in this worthwhile endeavor.



Top right: New Citizens Chair Dorothy Hocker and President Anne Burnett joins Hon. John R. Padova and other dignitaries and new citizens; Bottom left: Patriotic Service Chair, Rebecca O'Neill hands out gifts bags to New Citizens; Bottom right: Patsy Jones and Kristin Cahn von Seelen with The Hon. John R. Padova

DAMES DO THEIR DUTY

In December 2014, our Service to Military Chair, Elizabeth Mills, sponsored a "Support Our Service Members" collection which was very successful! We'd like to thank all the PA Dames for their generous donations. The NSCDA-PA collected over 80 pounds of food, toiletries, and entertainment items to be sent overseas to U.S. service members supporting freedom.

At our February meeting our society

had note cards at each luncheon table for Dames to write personal notes to the service members, which will be included in the boxes. We also collected monetary donations for postage.

In March we will have a packing party at a Dames home where we will box up the supplies and prepare labels for shipping to Afghanistan. This is a wonderful example of Dames doing their duty, supporting our troops doing their duty.



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our annual Thanksgiving Service and Tea at Valley Forge's Washington Memorial Chapel, held this year on Nov. 23, continues to be a lovely and moving tradition. PA Dame and opera singer Jane Foster-Willson performed the inspiring "Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit" by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)



Left: Kristin Cahn von Seelen, Rebecca O'Neill and Dorothy Hocker; Right: Arthur and Jane Foster Willson

NSCDA BIENNIAL COUNCIL, 16-20 OCTOBER 2014

By Kristin Smith Cahn von Seelen, Vice-Chair, Stenton Committee

The 2014 Biennial Council took place October 16-20 at the Ritz-Carlton in Arlington, Virginia. Our Pennsylvania contingent included National Vice-President, Region IV Sally Congdon and NSCDA Assistant Treasurer Dora Rogers, as well as the following delegates, alternates and observers: Anne Burnett, Elizabeth Hobbs, Rebecca O'Neill, Margaret Shaver, Gina Whelan, Sharon Holt, Carrie Griffith, Colleen Holt-McCauley, Lee Manonian, and myself. Friday highlights included visiting Dumbarton House for a Welcome Home Tea and Tour on a brilliant autumn evening. Gina, a textile conservator, queried Executive Director Karen Daly about a rare, recently acquired sampler that she was able to inspect first-hand. Back at the hotel, delegates enjoyed a Young Dames Happy Hour and Taste of the World Buffet.

Saturday's Opening Session began with a procession of former National Officers and a member from each society bearing her state's flag. During the Consent Agenda segment, we voted on items previously posted to the NSCDA web site. Officer reports, regional highlights, and preview of the new web site followed. Anne Burnett, as Pennsylvania President and thereby chair of the National Nominating Committee, announced the slate of National Officers, and we elected them in due course. Incoming officers—including our own Dora Rogers, National Treasurer—were individually acknowledged at Sunday's Closing Session.

When meetings were not in session, delegates perused state Gift Shop Tables and Information Tables, and attended workshops on historical activities, museum properties, patriotic service, registrars' and treasurers' topics, development, strategic planning, communications and membership, and Young Dames. After a Saturday of

focused concentration, we were ravenous, and quite ready for the restorative benefits of Biennial Dinner, an effervescent, black-tie affair featuring delicious food, lively conversation, inspiring speeches, and Dixieland jazz. We learned a great deal about projects under Dames

stewardship around the country and got to know many Dames from other state societies. I think I speak for our entire delegation when I say that we returned to Pennsylvania full of fresh ideas and invigorated by the renewed awareness of all the good that we as a society do.



Among our PA Roll of Honor (ROH) recipients recognized at the 2014 Biennial were (above from left: Lee Manonian, Sharon Holt, Elizabeth Hobbs, and Ellen Folke. Also acknowledged were: Lisa Carr, Judith Eshleman (posthumously), Mary Farmer, Jean McCullough, Eleanor Peterson, Sarah Slaymaker, and Lisa Street.

Special Projects Chair Eleanor Peterson, standing here with talented designer Kevin Leigh-Manuell, models the summer version of our new Pennsylvania Dames Scarf, alongside a display of the winter design. Call headquarters, and order yours today! The story behind the scarf's unique design motifs will be featured in the next Connections.



MEMBERSHIP

LUCKY TO BE A DAME!

by Colleen H. McCauley

Our most recent New Dames Orientation, held at Stenton on December 6, 2014, felt festive despite the damp, drizzly weather outside. Veteran Committee Chairs and new Dames munched on a buffet brunch while President Anne Burnett welcomed everyone. Sally Congdon gave an overview of the NSCDA mission and vision statements, Strategic Planning goals, and resources available to members through our NSCDA national headquarters at Dumbarton House. An NSCDA/PA Past President, Sally is immediate Past National Vice-President, Region IV, and continues as chair of the NSCDA Strategic Planning, while assisting our PA Society as chair of Audit Committee and Bylaws Task Force.

Stenton and Museum Properties Chair Carol Rush spoke about Stenton and its gardens, and the site's many wonderful volunteer opportunities available. Dottie Hocker likewise outlined Patriotic Service Committee work available with New Citizens Ceremonies, National History Day, Scholarships, and Troop Support. Other volunteer opportunities for new members include Finance, Development, (fundraising), Communications, Lineage and Membership, Library Committee, and Programs and hospitality. Recruitment and orientation of new members with the requisite skills to advance the mission of our organization are vital to our future.

We are most fortunate to have an active, vibrant, and ever-growing membership in Pennsylvania. For more information on how to propose a new member, please contact the undersigned Membership Chair at colleenaholt@hotmail.com. Finally, the true highlight of the New Dames

Orientation was a tour of James Logan's glorious Stenton, led by Curator Laura Keim. Thanks to all who came and who contributed towards orienting new members to what it means to be a Pennsylvania Dame! Also, special thanks are extended to Douglass Hocker for photographing this event!



Top: New Dames, staff and Committee Chairs get acquainted over brunch before the orientation session begins; Bottom: Membership Chair Colleen McCauley (at right) and Anne Burnett provide an overview of the morning's orientation session.

GUNSTON HALL (CON'T)

VADR prominently, highlighting its importance in guiding our Founders from a statement of democratic ideals to a 'user's manual.' Near Mason's statue in the NCC Signers' Hall is a plaque noting his leading role as a Dissenter who refused to sign the Constitution, in part because it originally lacked a Bill of

Rights. I encourage you to visit, if you have not been there recently! Here is a link to the exhibit pamphlet: http://constitutioncenter.org/media/files/13_Exhibition_Pamphlet.pdf

We are considering a variety of celebratory and thought-provoking projects for 2016, including a gala, student

essay contests, scholarly symposia, and museum and library exhibitions. Gunston Hall's proximity to Washington, DC, affords us outstanding opportunities to showcase George Mason's contributions to American governance and culture. I will keep you posted!

NSCDA/PA 2014-2015 CALENDAR

LANCASTER/DAUPHIN/YORK Meetings & Events

STENTON Events

STENTON Committee Meetings

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

Development & Strategic Planning

National Meetings & Events

LINEAGE Meetings

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

ALLEGHENY Meetings & Events

NSCDA/PA EVENTS

NSCDA/PA Board Meeting

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

2015	DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
March	18	Wed	Stated Meeting	4:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Headquarters
	19	Thu	Citizenship	11:00 am	Courthouse
April	2	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Stenton
	4	Sat	Stenton Easter Egg Hunt	1:00 pm	Stenton
	7	Tu	Lineage Committee	10:30 am	Headquarters
	10	Fri	Board Meeting	TBA	Headquarters
	15	Wed	Stated Meeting (Founders Day)	11:00 am - 1:30 pm	Headquarters
May	7	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Stenton
	12	Tu	Lineage Committee	10:30 am	Headquarters
	14	Thu	Stenton Garden Party	5:00pm - 7:00pm	Stenton
	15	Fri	Board Meeting	TBA	Headquarters
	20	Wed	Stated Meeting (Annual Meeting)	11:00 am - 1:30 pm	Headquarters
June	4	Thu	Stenton Committee	10:30 am	Stenton
	9	Tu	Lineage Committee	10:30 am	Headquarters
	12	Fri	Board Meeting @ Stenton	TBA	Stenton
July	4	Sat	Stenton 4th of July Celebration		Stenton

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW MEMBERS

GRIGGS, Allison Dale

Ancestor: John Fife

PA-6827

GRIGGS, Miss Jenna Leigh

Ancestor: John Fife

PA-6827

KELLER, Mrs. Patricia Ann Keller

(Patricia Ann Corry)

Ancestor: John Viets

PA-6829

KISH, Lorraine Elizabeth Sharp

(Lorraine Elizabeth Sharp)

Ancestor: Chowning Robert, Jr.

PA-6832

LADER, Mrs. Paul

(Sandra L. Scheurenbrand)

Ancestor: John Hart

PA-6833

MARSHALL, Elizabeth Starr

Ancestor: Thomas Welde

PA-6837

MARSHALL, Miss Jacqueline Ambler

Ancestor: Thomas Weld

PA-6831

MARTIN, Mrs. Robert Craig

(Celia Holway Cullen)

Ancestor: WILLIAM DEWEES

PA-6834

RUSH, Miss Margaret Anne Flynn

Ancestor: Lion Gardiner

PA-6830

SHORRALL, Alexandra Cameron

Ancestor: George Reade

PA-6838

TAYLOR, Mrs. Scott Thompson Taylor

(Constance Annette Corbett)

Ancestor: Rosolve (Rosolveert) Waldron

PA-6828

WRIGHT, Miss Margaret Elizabeth

Ancestor: JOHN MIERS

PA-6835

WRIGHT, Mrs. Andrew Delaney

(Arrison Willow Rose Seals)

Ancestor: JOHN MIERS

PA-6836

DECEASED

COSLETT, JR., MRS. EDWARD W.

(Judith Scott Connelly)

Admitted: Dec. 9, 1966

Died: Sep. 16, 2014

PA-3672



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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

Paypal is now available on our websites: Stenton.org and nscdapa.org