

Starting in 1979, it became the custom for the President General to begin her term in office by selecting a project, preferably one pertaining to the Colonial Period and one that enhances the objectives of the Society. The project of Mrs. Louis W. Patterson, President General from 1979 to 1982, was a portrait of King James I, donated to the Old World Pavilion at Jamestown to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the founding of that colony. Significant contributions by other Presidents General are too numerous to mention here, but many of the selected projects have taken the form of scholarships to students majoring in American or Colonial History. The Cornelia H. Davis Academy Award Fund was established to provide funds for the awards presented by our Society at the Naval Academy at Annapolis and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The Martha Todd Roberts Rare Book Fund at the College of William and Mary is used to replace the books given in 1698 by Royal Governor Nicholson to establish a college library. A fire at the college in 1705 destroyed the library, but an inventory of the volumes is extant, which enables the college to replace original editions as they become available. In 1994, a search for the original fort, located on Jamestown Island in Virginia, was begun. Undisputed evidence of the site of the first English speaking colony in America was dedicated in 1996 as "Jamestown Rediscovery." Through the efforts of three Presidents General an archeological library has been established and materials needed to assist in cataloging excavated artifacts have been donated. The Nuthead Press House at St. Mary's City, MD is supported annually. From 2015 to 2018 the colonial weaving and textile program for students, re-enactors and historians at New France "the OTHER Colonial America" at Bolduc House Museum, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri was enhanced by our support. Following that, Jamestowne Rediscovery was again chosen as the focus of the Society.

In 2021 the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH with 350 years of living history including: historic homes, original sites, costumed role-players, traditional craft demonstrations, heirloom gardens, historical landscapes and more, was chosen as the project. For the 2024-2027 term President General Ann Waggaman, chose the New Netherland Institute for her project. NNI's focus is on New Amsterdam. For more information on the institute and its work see: newnetherlandinstitute.org.

The projects of the Presidents General are supported annually by the Society's chapters, generally for that term, but a few continue on as projects of the Society.

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the direction of:*

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Mrs. George Humphrey Bryan, Jr.
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Ann Waggaman
President General
2024- 2027

National Society Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century 501(c)3

History and Purpose

www.colonialdaughters17th.org

OBJECT

The object of this Society includes preserving the memory of the Founders of this nation, commemorating historical incidents of the colonial period, collecting and preserving colonial relics and documents, and erecting tablets at places of historic interest relating to that period. These objectives are achieved through patriotic, educational, philanthropic, and historical endeavors.

MEMBERS

Membership in this Society is by invitation only. An applicant for membership may join the Society either through a chapter or as a member-at-large.

An applicant for chapter membership shall be endorsed by two members in good standing to whom the applicant is personally known and who shall write letters stating the qualifications which would make the candidate a desirable member.

An applicant for membership-at-large is admitted in the same manner as one for chapter membership, except that the application shall be made directly to the Registrar General rather than the

Chapter Registrar. No member-at-large is eligible to be a delegate or an alternate to the meetings of the National Society or a chapter, to hold a national office or chapter office, or to serve on a national or chapter committee. She shall, however, be eligible to attend the General Business Assembly of the National Society.

Bylaws Article IV

ELIGIBILITY

Any woman of good moral character and reputation, past the age of eighteen years, lineally descended from an ancestor who rendered service from 1607 to 1699 inclusive, according to the following eligibility list, may be considered a candidate for membership:

First Settlers of Jamestown	
Passenger of the Mayflower (male or female)	
Governors or Governors' Assistants	
Lieutenant Governors	
Magistrates or Magistrates' Assistants	
Members of Assemblies	
Members of Important Councils and Commissions	
Members of Courts of Sessions	
Members of the House of Burgesses	
Members of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Co	
Members of the Town and County Militia	
Officers of Garrison Houses & defenders of same	
Town Clerks or Treasurers	
Founders of towns named in their first patent provided the founder settled in the named town	
Overseers and Trustees of Towns	
Members of the First Town Councils	
Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries	
Officers, Soldiers & Sailors of Colonial Wars	
Selectmen	Judges & Jurors
Clerks of the Courts	Justices of the Peace
Recorders	Presidents of Towns
High Sheriffs	Constables
Deputies	Court Messengers
Crown Printers	Ministers
Ruling Elders	Deacons
Vestrymen	Wardens
Interpreters	Commissaries
Surveyors	Teachers
Physicians	Attorneys

HISTORY

The formation of the Society of The Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century was not the outcome of sudden inspiration but developed after patient consideration and consultation.

The founder, Mrs. Harland Page Halsey of Brooklyn, New York, recognizing the value and advantage of patriotic societies, concluded that it would be an excellent idea to organize a society having in view the special commemoration of men and women and events covering the colonial period in our country's history - a society where membership should include, exclusively, descendants of the very earliest settlers who had rendered distinguished services prior to 1700, hence the name, "COLONIAL DAUGHTERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY."

Mrs. Halsey gathered several ladies who could trace their colonial ancestry to those who met the above qualifications, and this group adopted a Constitution and set of Bylaws.

The Charter of the Society was signed by the Secretary of State in Albany, New York, and a Certificate of Incorporation, dated May 5, 1896, was forwarded to the Society making the Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century a legal organization.

The first social gathering of the Society, a colonial tea and musical, was held at the home of the President on November 27, 1896. This event was extremely successful, and the purposes and prospects of the Society became more widely known. Many applications for membership were received.

As chapters were added, the General Assembly became Founders Chapter, and on December 14, 1948, in Brooklyn, New York, the General Society officially changed its name to the "National Society Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century, Inc." Missouri Chapter, organized April 10, 1905, was the first to join Founders Chapter in the General Society and became Chapter Number One.

The fifteen founding members established a tradition of perpetuating the memory of those brave and hardy men and women who bore the burden of establishing the colonies of America and laid the foundations upon which the Republic of the United States of America now stands.