



— TENNESSEE —

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
THE COLONIAL DAMES  
OF AMERICA IN TENNESSEE  
P.O. Box 50973  
NASHVILLE, TN 37205

### CORONAVIRUS

Please read all email communications that come from your Tennessee Dames and check your spam folders to see if emails are going there. We will send you information about postponed events via email. If you feel like you are not receiving any emails, please contact your Town Committee Chair.

### OUR VISION

In this, the 21st Century, the NSCDA is responsible for educating its membership and the American people about the values and principles set forth by our Founding Fathers that shaped our culture, and for demonstrating the relevance of America's history of liberty and freedom to a responsible citizenship. Implementation of national, regional, and local projects incorporated with the assets and information available through the resource center of our national headquarters at Dumbarton House will unify our members and inspire all Dames and the American Community.

### OUR MISSION

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational programs.

### OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

The objects of this Society shall be:

- To collect and preserve manuscripts, traditions, relics, and mementos of bygone days;
- To preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country;
- To educate our fellow citizens and ourselves in our country's history and thus diffuse healthful and intelligent information concerning the past;
- To create a popular interest in our Colonial history;
- To stimulate a spirit of true patriotism and a genuine love of country;
- And to impress upon the young the sacred obligation of honoring the memory of those heroic ancestors whose ability, valor, sufferings, and achievements are beyond all praise.

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SPRING 2022

— TENNESSEE —

[WWW.NSCDATN.ORG](http://WWW.NSCDATN.ORG)

### Dear Tennessee Dames!



I think we all are feeling it, aren't we? It's that hint of spring. Daffodils are starting to spring up and we seem to all be optimistically looking to the future. Long-delayed travel plans are being rescheduled. Postponed weddings and receptions are taking place. Dames are in the mix of all of it. Everyone's spirits seem to be lifting!

To that end, I would like to encourage all Dames to get ready for our Annual Meeting and Dinner this April. It's in Chattanooga! As you will recall, a couple of years ago we voted as a society to rotate our Annual Meeting and Dinner among our four Town Committees based on alphabetical order. That means Chattanooga is up first in the rotation!

The dinner will be held on Thursday, April 21 at the Tennessee Aquarium at 6pm. Tickets are \$100 and will feature a choice of salmon or steak. As always, guests are welcome. The meeting will be held the next day, Friday, April 22, at the Walden Club, and lunch will be \$30. Our wonderful Katie O'Bryan, Executive Director of Travellers Rest, will be the speaker.

Please RSVP by April 14. If you are mailing a check, please send it to Jean Bowden at 401 West Tyne Drive, Nashville, TN, 37205. Include the names of any guests who will join you at the dinner. If you don't want to mail a check, watch your email for the chance to make a reservation online.

This is such a lovely opportunity to visit our sisters all over the state and we are grateful to Chattanooga for kicking things off. They sure do know how to host and are rolling out the red carpet to make us feel welcome. Make your reservations and pack your bags! You won't want to miss it!

I can't wait to see you all in Chattanooga!

Best  
Laura Roberts  
NSCDA-TN President

### NSCDA – TN STATE BOARD

2022 – 2023

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- SULGRAVE MANOR – ALLISON STEPHENS**

## Memphis Town Committee

Greetings from Memphis!

After our fantastic fall meeting in late September, everyone seemed to be excited about rejuvenating the Colonial Dames in Memphis. In November, we had our first Dames Book Club get together at the restaurant inside our wonderful independent bookstore, *Novel*. There were about a dozen attendees and the discussion was lively. We had read *A Mount Vernon Love Story*, the first book by Mary Higgins Clark. It was an easy-to-read biography about George Washington. At the meeting, we decided to read biographies of the first 5 presidents as the inaugural selections and we had a date in January to discuss David McCullough's *John Adams*.

Sadly, most of our winter plans were scrapped over concern about spreading the virus. Our Christmas party, our first Dames Dinner Club meeting and our second Dames Book Club event would have been well attended - oh well!! We were able to get several boxes of the new cookbook right before Christmas, so 35 of them have been sold thus far! Life seems to be getting back on track and we have set dates for the book club (Feb 22nd) and the dinner club (March 24th). Interest for both events is building!!

Our spring meeting will be in the chapel at Elmwood Cemetery on Thursday, April 14th. I am hopeful that our turn out will be big - there will be a good program, another "Minute for Ancestry", delicious box lunches, and an optional walking tour following the meeting. Memphis would love for any of the state officers to come see us then!!

Respectfully submitted,  
Cary Brown

## Chattanooga Town Committee

Our November meeting was held at the Lookout Mountain Golf Club and was a wonderful event! The program was a "Women in History" presentation by Chattanooga Dame Anita Harrower. Dressed in period costume, she portrayed Martha Washington and it was absolutely delightful. Meg Beasley presented her Ancestor story, and we had lunch with a view. The meeting was very well attended.

We went forward in December with our Christmas Party at the Walden Club with Dames and guests which was festive and great fun.

Our next meeting will be in March at the Walden Club with lunch and a speaker.

Plans for the Annual Meeting and Dinner in the Spring of 2022 are being finalized with a Save the Date postcard to go out soon. Dates are April 21 for the Annual Dinner at the Tennessee Aquarium. Exhibits will be open during the cocktail hour and after dinner. The Annual meeting will be held at The Walden Club on April 22 with lunch to follow and views of the surrounding mountains and city. We have a room block at the Hampton Inn with rooms discounted to \$129 which is an excellent price for downtown Chattanooga. We can use the conference room at the Hampton to hold the Board meeting.

Respectively submitted,  
Julia Sanford



## Travellers Rest

The Travellers Rest staff has been excited to have campers and students coming back to the property again! Last summer over a hundred campers enjoyed a safe, in-person experience and registrations for our 2022 camps are already coming in strong.

Since last Fall the TR staff has welcomed two-hour field trips and staged five larger homeschool programs --*Historic Trades Days*, *Before Nintendo* (aka toys and games),

*Archaeology Day*, *Victorian Valentines* and *Into the Wilderness* (early settlement in TN).

Two of those were produced as successful public programs, attracting family groups to TR even on a dreary, rainy day. In January, even the scientific investigation of our grounds became a public program as visitors were invited to view the use of Ground Penetrating Radar to search for further archaeological evidence hidden underground. (The results, due back in several weeks, will help enhance our respectful interpretation and protection of any 13<sup>th</sup> c. Mississippian Indian artifacts still buried on our site.) February's programs shared the stories of both the enslaved and the emancipated individuals who worked at TR during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In March, the *Artisan Day* program will be a sewing workshop led by Tonya Staggs, formerly on the TR staff and now Executive Director of Historic Castilian Springs. Later that month a special *Decorative Arts House Tour*, sponsored by Case Antiques, will focus on the original Overton family furnishings and on our collection of distinctively Tennessee or Southern regional pieces. *A Day Out with Mom*, in May, will feature herb garden tours, tea on the Lower Gallery, hands-on crafts, and artisan demonstrations. At the end of May, TR will host our second *Live at TR Songwriters Night* and a Neighborhood Day for families in nearby Crieve Hall.

If you'd like to join the fun, be sure to follow "TR Tuesdays" on our Facebook page, read the online newsletters you receive and check out Upcoming Events at our website, [www.historictravellersrest.org](http://www.historictravellersrest.org).

Abby Coombs, a graduate student at MTSU, has been hired to help the TN Dames with a database entry project and to scan recently received documents relating to TR's role as a Progressive Era Arabian horse breeding farm. Having these records organized and easily available will help us tell one more part of the full TR story.

TR's Executive Director, Katie O'Bryan, has enjoyed interacting online with the directors of the other NSCDA properties. She recently shared information about TR's activities via a survey sent to all GAT museums. Information from all of the surveys will be combined to show the NSCDA's impact on historic preservation and education across the country.

Travellers Rest continues to focus every day on the NSCDA missions of preservation and education. I'd like to thank all of the Dames who have already responded to the annual giving mailing and to remind everyone that it's not too late to join them.





Dames and friends enjoying the Irish landscape



Susan Walker getting acquainted with a giant tortoise on the island of Santa Cruz, Galapagos



Dames and friends enjoying a hike on Santa Fe

*This activity-filled trip had a schedule that would remind you of your days at camp. We snorkeled and hiked almost every day, experiencing the different landscapes of the islands and getting very close to the wildlife, learning about the natural history of the islands, the vegetation, and the animal life. Having been a biology teacher, my questions were numerous, and our naturalists on board were so knowledgeable. I learned so much and enjoyed the company of others who loved spending most of our time on this adventure trip outdoors. (Many of our travelers returned home to snow and ice – a huge contrast!)*

For those who are concerned about traveling during the pandemic, the good news is that 300 people have traveled over the past six months, and every one of them traveled COVID-free. Connoisseurs Tours takes great care of their travelers and navigates all of requirements for travel within the countries that are visited during these COVID times. If you are worried that you may have to cancel your reservation, CT has added **Travel Protection** which gives you the ability to **cancel for any reason** and receive a full refund on journey payments. This takes some of the uncertainty out of committing to a trip.

You also benefit the Tennessee Dames when you travel. For each Tennessee Dame and guest who “Travels Dames Style”, Connoisseurs Tours will contribute \$100 to the NSCDA-Tennessee. So, you can have a wonderful experience and support our Society!

The Nashville Dames are excited to have our Spring Membership Meeting once again at our beautiful headquarters, Travelers Rest, on April 28. To continue with our theme, the “Year of Membership,” we will be joined by National Membership Chair Holly Hunt, from New York. We are so fortunate to have her! After such a lovely 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration this past Fall at the Governor’s Residence, with special guest First Lady Maria Lee, the excitement continues and we are seeing more and more members bring in their friends, daughters and granddaughters! We are also grateful, now that the pandemic seems to have died down, that we can revive many of our traditional celebrations this Spring such as the New Members Soiree and Young Dames events. I think we can say that we survived a strange season of either cancelled or zoom gatherings, and there seems to be a renewed sense of joy in being a Dame! So many Dames helped keep our Nashville Town Committee vibrant through book clubs, Veterans campaigns and online meetings. But we are glad to be face-to-face again!



Tina Adams  
Chair, Nashville Town Committee

March 7, 2022

## Knoxville Town Committee

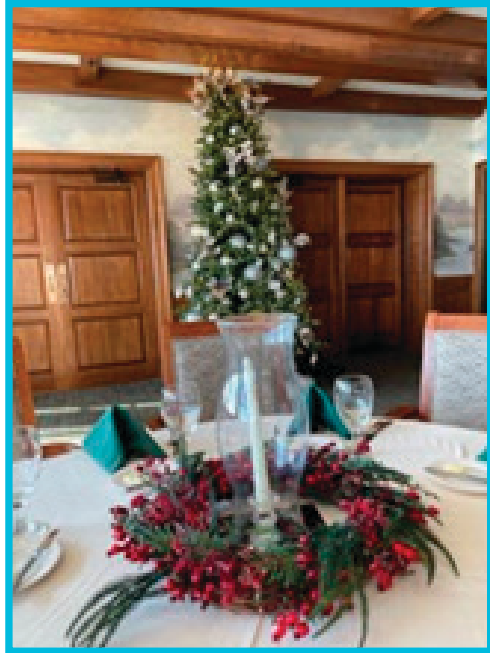


Table setting from the December Knoxville



Chairman Cardin Bradley



Pat Rutenberg



Nancy White and speaker Pat Rutenberg, Distinguished lecturer with the UT history department, who gave a delightful talk about her book, *Justice in the Valley: A Bicentennial History of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee*

## Travel Dames Style Susan Walker

*Ready to travel again? The Dames have a trip for you!*

The NSCDA and our travel partner, Connoisseurs Tours of Savannah, have a great lineup of trips designed exclusively for Dames and their friends. With travel halted during the pandemic, we are more excited than ever about having these opportunities for adventure and education. Click here to learn about upcoming trips:

<https://www.ctjourneys.com/nscda>

Some of the trips may already be filled, but there is always a waiting list, and often, places open up within a few months of the trip. So, if you are interested, add your name to the waiting list. For first notice about new upcoming trips, add your name to the priority access list at:

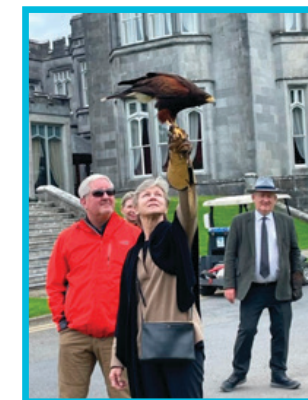
<https://connoisseurstours.us13.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=2031a1feec7ee07624899b070&id=847912e214>.

If you wish to speak to someone at Connoisseurs Tours, call them at 1-800-856-1045.

Several Tennessee Dames have traveled recently.

Ann Kelly and Mary Lea Bryant, along with Ann's husband, Owen, traveled to Ireland in September of 2021.

*The Great Houses, Castles, and Gardens of Ireland tour gave us an appreciation of Irish history and culture from prehistoric through current times. Kathryn Waller of Connoisseurs Tours and her wonderful Irish guide, Harry Fisher, led our group through memorable experiences with lovely surprises throughout. Our private guides were always the most knowledgeable about each site's special story—several were the property owners themselves! Our hotels were lovely, the Irish citizens always welcoming, and we had ample time to explore on our own. Kathryn's team navigated all the details for us so smoothly, from airline tickets and moving all the luggage to keeping us all COVID safe and accommodating special requests. We have already signed up for another trip!*



Susan Walker traveled to the Galapagos in January of 2022 with a group of 21 Dames and their guests. This Presidents' Invitational Cruise included

Mary Lea Bryant ties her hand at falconry.



After a big dose of snow this winter, Gunston's creative staff is gearing up for many varied programs throughout the year. Some of the interesting opportunities to learn American History and to experience Gunston Hall are: Open Hearth cooking programs, a Declaration Day ceremony, a Constitution Day ceremony, a Revolutionary War Day, Archaeology in the Garden, Cocktails by Candlelight, and History in the Kitchen. So many diverse programs that are presented appeal to tourists, local citizens, and internet friends.

A new program this year is a Spring Festival on April 16th from ten to four. This full day celebration will incorporate the Kite Festival of years past into a full day of relishing all things spring. As the garden is now a year old and has had a season to grow and flourish, it will be fun to enjoy Gunston Hall's expanded venue.

I encourage all Tennessee Dames to become a member and follow along with all the exciting programs at Gunston Hall. George Mason built a remarkable home and wrote wise words in the Virginia Declaration of Rights. His legacy still stands strong today in our Nation, as Gunston Hall is The Home of American Rights.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Kelly White  
Tennessee Regent



## Dumbarton House Spring 2022 Report

The Dumbarton House Annual Spring Meeting will be held in person March 30 – April 1. In addition to the usual business agenda, plans are in the works to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> year of Dumbarton House being open to the public. The Gala will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Anderson House, headquarters for the Society of the Cincinnati.

Dumbarton House plans to reopen in March with new tours and lectures to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and restoration of the Best Chamber. As the weather warms, Dumbarton at Dusk will be revived as well as other fun outdoor programs for everyone in the community.

During the February closure there are two virtual tours in honor of Black History month. The first tour, "Labor in an early Georgetown Household", will be February 8 and the second, "Grace Duckett: Woman, Mother, Enslaved Worker", will be February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom link can be found at [dumbartonhouse.org/programs](https://dumbartonhouse.org/programs).

Inspired by Peter Waddell's painting, "At Home on the Heights" showing the back of the house in its original location, which was presented to Karen Daly in appreciation for her years of service to Dumbarton House, Jane Boylin created "Ages of Dumbarton House". Peter was commissioned to create several additional paintings to illustrate the stories of Dumbarton House. For example, "Called into Service", illustrates the loan of Dumbarton House to the Red Cross during World War II to assist in the war effort. Information about the next two paintings will be shared as the project progresses. Each painting offers many possibilities for sharing our story with wider audiences.

Respectfully submitted,





## NSCDA-TN Friends of Sulgrave Manor Spring 2022 Newsletter

Friends of Sulgrave Manor are currently in the process of sending out the annual solicitation letters. Please look for your letter and consider a contribution as we celebrate George Washington's 290<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year as well as the anniversary of Sulgrave Manor being opened as Historic Property for the public. We are also enjoying development and implementation of a Mentor/Mentee program with the new Associate Trustees. The Manor itself has great plans to re-open the Manor and Gardens in April for the 101st year with activities planned throughout the year. Pruning and cutting back in the gardens have been underway, power cleaning of the stone paving and steps has taken place, and the visitor services team have cleaned and re-stocked the shop with brand new and exciting items on the re-outfitted shelves for the 2022 season.

The Dames Day Tour is in fully booked status for enjoyment in May of tour and Dames Day when the new George Washington exhibit will be opened. A virtual speaker event is planned for February 22, 2022 sponsored by Friends of Sulgrave Manor and NSCDA-GA at 5:30 pm Eastern Time when author of "Young Washington", Peter Stark, will speak. I'm including the flyer for this event in the event you are interested in the book.

*Celebrate George Washington's 290th birthday with History Matters and Friends of Sulgrave Manor*

February 22, 2022  
5:30pm

Virtual Celebration  
Featuring Young Washington author Peter Stark

SAVE THE DATE ∞ INVITATION TO FOLLOW

In George Washington's time birthdays were not celebrated. Washington was no exception to this practice. His birthday first became a celebrated occasion in 1778 at Valley Forge when drummers and fifers from Proctor's Artillery honored the general with a birthday serenade. By the time of his presidency, his birthday had become a popular national event following a British custom of paying the monarch a birthday tribute. There are records of various birthday celebrations for the president throughout his lifetime. For his last two birthdays, Washington attended a birthday celebration given by his Alexandria, Virginia neighbors – a tradition that Alexandria continues today. George, unfortunately, is no longer able to attend in person.

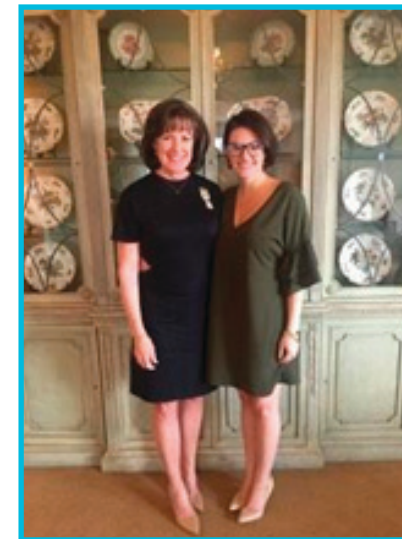
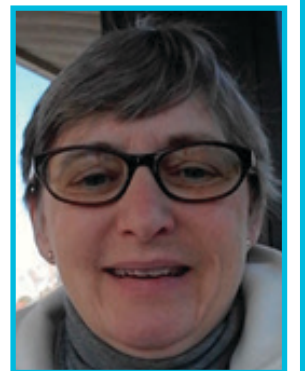
*A card printed for Washington's birthday in the late 1800s by the Franklin Printing Co.*

The NSCDA GA is celebrating Washington's 290th virtually on February 22, 2022.  
Save the date and join the entertainment!

The Annual Meeting for Friends of Sulgrave Manor is planned in October in Washington D.C. Sales of items from the shop link of the Sulgrave Manor US site are going well. **If anyone is interested in receiving monthly newsletters from the Manor directly, they can go the UK site and scroll to the bottom the lead page to register "sulgravemanor.org.uk". (Please check your SPAM folder for the newsletter and make note "not spam" as server used from UK seems to send it to many systems' SPAM in this country).** Thank you to the many who are supporting the projects and upkeep of this treasured property and the wonderful education opportunities using the new George Washington exhibit.

Associate Trustee Friends of Sulgrave Manor for Tennessee

Allison Stephens



## Registrar

Welcome to Spring! With Covid hopefully soon behind us it's time to get outside and have patio/porch parties. This will be a good time to have events and invite friends who might be interested in joining us.

Let them know how much fun we have being together sharing similar topics.

It's always time to invite legacies...I am working on two in Chattanooga and one in Memphis. And Mary McWhorter's daughter was just approved in Knoxville. Like I've said before, Legacies are the backbone of our Society.

We need to promote membership. This is extremely important. If anyone is interested in helping with membership, I will be happy to be a part of it. We need ladies to step up and become more involved. We are a nonprofit and depend on our wonderful volunteers.

Pictured are Betsy Seckman, NTC Registrar and her daughter, Pringle, NTC Young Dames Chair.

Sandi Atkinson