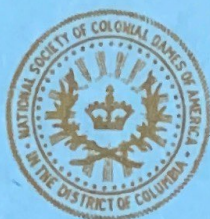


**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES
OF AMERICA
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**ADDENDA
AND
INCORPORATORS AND PRESIDENTS
1892-1962**

**BY
DOROTHY FOWLER MUNSTER
HISTORIAN**

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America

in the

District of Columbia

INCORPORATORS

Mrs. Beverley Kennon
Countess Esterhazy
Mrs. James Blair
Miss Elizabeth Byrd Nicholas
Mrs. Oswald H. Ernst

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Beverley Kennon.....	1892-1911
Mrs. James Blair.....	1911-1914
Mrs. Albert Covington Janin.....	1914-1932*
Miss Agnes Peter.....	1933-1937
Mrs. Fairfax Harrison.....	1937-1941
Mrs. G. Freeland Peter.....	1941-1945
Mrs. Elvin Ragnvald Heiberg.....	1945-1947
Mrs. G. Freeland Peter.....	1947-1949
Mrs. James H. Patten.....	1949-1951
Mrs. Walter G. Peter.....	1951-1953
Mrs. Warren L. Stephenson.....	1953-1954
Mrs. A. Chambers Oliphant.....	1954-1955
Mrs. Norman L. Munster.....	1955-1959
Mrs. Kenneth M. Hoeffel.....	1959-

* In 1932 Mrs. Janin became President Emeritus.

A brief resume of the founding of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America is a fitting preface to the history of the District Society which was chosen as the Domicile or Headquarters of the National Society.

In the spring of 1891 members of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, hearing that a society of Colonial Dames of America had recently been founded in New York, wrote to its officers and asked for an account of the Society and its objectives. They received a courteous reply with a copy of the constitution and by-laws.

At the suggestion of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, a group of prominent women met at Mrs. Crawford Arnold's home on April 8, 1891 in Philadelphia to form a similar society. At this meeting were present three members of the New York Society, one of whom suggested that the Philadelphia organization become a chapter of the New York Society. An invitation was issued by the New York Society, but after several meetings it was determined that the two organizations could not agree as to the fundamental character of the Society. The Pennsylvania Society was incorporated, June 13, 1891, and the New York Society (the Colonial Dames of America), was incorporated two months earlier, April 13, 1891. After an elapse of some time, with court proceedings necessary to determine the kind of Charter each could have, it was decided that the New York Chapter, as it was called, would be known as "The Colonial Dames of America," and the organization in Philadelphia would be known as "The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America," with societies to be formed in other States over the Nation in due course.

The first Council of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America was held on January 11, 1893, in the home of Mrs. Beverley Kennon, "Tudor Place" in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. Mrs. Kennon, 1st Vice President of the National Society, presided in the absence of the President, Mrs. G. Dawson Coleman, of Pennsylvania. Mrs. Kennon, nee Britannia Wellington Peter, was the great grand-daughter of Martha Washington and the daughter of Thomas Peter, son of Robert, first Mayor of Georgetown. This Council meeting consisted of five delegates from the first four Societies; Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware. At this meeting the newly incorporated societies of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Rhode Island were admitted as members of the National Society.

Extracts from the original minutes of the District Society follow: "The organizing meeting of the District Society was held on the 20th of May 1892 at the residence of Mrs. Minna Blair Richey (Mrs. Stephen O. Richey), 1651 Pennsylvania Avenue for the purpose of organizing a branch of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia." (It is interesting to note that this home is the same Blair House now used as the guest house for visiting dignitaries of State by the United States Government.) "There were present 35 ladies from the District, by invitation, and 4 ladies from the Maryland Society who assisted the ladies in organizing. They (Maryland) reported on a convention held in Wilmington, Delaware which resulted in the incorporation under laws of

Delaware of the Societies Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, and the District of Columbia. The District Society was incorporated under the laws of the District and under the name of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia. Thereupon the meeting elected the following officers:

President.....	Mrs. Beverley W. Kennon
Vice Presidents.....	Sarah V., Countess Esterhazy, Mrs. Mary Jesup Blair, Miss Elizabeth Byrd Nicholas and Mrs. Elizabeth Amory Ernst
Secretary.....	Mrs. Rosa Wright Smith
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Harriet Selden Heth
Registrar.....	Miss Eugenia Washington
Historian.....	Mrs. Louisa Knowlton Browne.”

At this time eight directors were appointed and the District Charter was presented and signed by the President and the four Vice Presidents.

A meeting of the Board of Managers was held on June 14, 1892, at the home of Mrs. James Blair, 12 Lafayette Square. The minutes of the meeting held for the purpose of organizing the Society were read and approved. Upon motion of Mrs. Violet Blair Janin, the Maryland and Pennsylvania form of application for membership in the National Society was adopted. The By-laws, as drawn up by the By-laws Committee, were presented and accepted. The many details that were necessary in forming a new and working organization were discussed and formulated. The following ladies were elected delegates to represent the District at the first National Council to be held in this city January 11, 1893: Mrs. Minna Blair Richey, Mrs. Henrietta N. Greely, Miss Mary Lloyd Pendleton, Miss Katharine Cropper and Miss Mary Winthrop Tappan.

At the December meeting in 1892 a letter from the National Secretary was read requesting that the District Society make all arrangements for the first council to be held one month following.

Since this time the District Society has had the responsibility of making arrangements for the Councils, acting in the capacity of the Domicile Society.

On November 13, 1893, a large membership being present, the Society voted on the designs presented by the different state societies for the National Seal. After careful consideration it was agreed to favor the design submitted by the District Society. Later, at a meeting in November 1894 the subject of a District Seal was discussed and a committee headed by Miss Katharine Cropper was appointed to submit designs. In February 1895 Miss Cropper's handsome design was accepted as the Seal for the District Society.

As the Society grew both here and nationally their scope of interest broadened and their activities reached into many fields of historic work. As early as 1896 the District Society passed a motion that an historical paper relating to the Colonial period should be read before the Society at each meeting. This paper was given by a member of the Society and the custom continued for some time.

Since the Society was formed it has continued its work, holding monthly meetings of the Board of Managers and the regular Society from October through May.

It is interesting to note that our society through the years increased its financial aid and interest in projects pertaining to history and patriotism. We have continued giving scholarships through the Historic Activities Committee to students of American History in our universities and colleges.

In the early years of the 1920s the Society had as its chief object the raising of funds for Sulgrave Manor. To this, our Society contributed its quota of \$1230.00. The chairman of the committee having charge of this matter was Miss Agnes Peter (Mrs. John R. Mott).

The year 1928 is an outstanding one for all of our members. It was then that the National Society purchased the beautiful estate of Bellevue (since called Dumbarton House) in Georgetown. No more fitting nor historical house could have been secured. Our Society's quota of \$4050.00 toward this project was oversubscribed by \$232.06.

In July 1929 there was a celebration honoring the 21st birthday of the Boy Scouts International. It had been founded by Lord Baden-Powell. This great celebration Jamboree at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England, was attended by 50,000 boys from all countries having the Scout organizations. The Eagle Scout selected to represent the District was Dean Cowie. Our Society contributed \$400.00 toward the expenses of sending him to this International Jamboree. From the Scout Master in charge of the District group we learned that "Dean brought nothing but honor to himself and joy to his associates." Upon his return Dean gave a very interesting and creditable report of his trip before the Society and expressed his deep appreciation to them for their part in making the journey possible.

The Bicentennial of the birth of George Washington took place in 1932. The Society decided that the planting of two beautiful willow-oaks would be a suitable gift from them in celebration of the occasion. Mrs. G. Freeland Peter was appointed chairman of the committee. On May 9th the two willow-oaks, with inscribed tablet thereon, were planted in a place called the Capital Overlook, on the Mount Vernon Boulevard. This location commanded a magnificent view of the city.

In 1932 the District Society, by agreement with the National Society, began using Dumbarton House for its meetings. Our Society purchased the necessary chairs for the library and has continued holding monthly meetings there since that date. We have not paid a "rent" as such, but have made a continuous yearly contribution to the National Board for Dumbarton House which has been substantially increased periodically. It is a great inspiration to our membership as well as to other State Society Committees, to be able to meet in the beautiful National Headquarters. Our Society contributed the large bronze tablet on the Dumbarton House entrance, and it is among many historic markers placed through our Historic Activities Committee.

A Colonial Georgetown map was made in 1933 by Miss Sears at a cost of \$150.00. Time has proven this a very good investment as we are still selling copies of the map at \$1.00 each. It is an interesting and attractive map to have in a collection. We sent copies of this map to our National President and to the Historians of the thirteen Colonial States.

During Mrs. Fairfax Harrison's Presidency of our Society, the Golden Jubilee of the National Society was celebrated. At the Jubilee Dinner, May 5, 1941, a contribution of \$502.00 was given to the National Society by the District Society in memory of its first President, Mrs. Britannia W. Kennon.

In 1939 the Society became very much interested in the training and education of an Indian girl, Loretta Sherman. They contributed at least \$120.00 a year toward her education and gave more for clothes, and spending money. The school was the Good Shepherd Mission, Dearborn, Arizona. Loretta was our protegee for three years. She was followed by another girl, Carlotta Welsh, daughter of the late Chief of the Cherokee Tribe, Red Bird Smith. Carlotta took her training in Sibley Hospital, Washington, desiring to become a nurse. Her schooling cost \$175.00 a year, plus other necessary expenditures which were paid by the Society and individual members. She was presented with a watch upon graduation. She graduated second in her class. She spoke before our November meeting in 1943. As the country was in the Second World War at this time Carlotta signed up with the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps and served with them before returning to work among her own people.

With our Country asking for all the help we as individuals could give, our members rallied to the cause in every way. Through our Society we subscribed thousands of dollars in War Bonds, and gave hundreds of hours working as a unit at Dumbarton House making surgical dressings, sewing, knitting, etc. Mrs. Charles Willcox was in charge of this work. We gave also financially to the Red Cross. Records of these activities are in Dumbarton House.

In 1941 the question arose concerning the renewal or the perpetuation of our Charter. It was decided to perpetuate our present Charter as it stands.

A project undertaken by the Society was the completion of a large set of slides, "Pictorial Washington." This was done under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Walter G. Peter, who prepared the lecture to be used in presenting the slides, and Mrs. Frederick W. Pearson, who undertook the preparation of the slides. The cost of the slides was \$275.00 and of the projector \$100.00. More slides have been added thus keeping the collection up to date. They have been a source of great interest and enjoyment to people through many organizations, Homes for the Aged, libraries, Armed Forces groups, patriotic organizations, Garden Clubs, and other Colonial Dames Societies. They have been sent as far as California. We are most appreciative of the effort given by these two ladies in making possible an opportunity to see and enjoy the historic beauties of our Capital City.

In the work of the Historic Activities Committee and Patriotic Service Committee, we have attended memorial services and placed wreaths in cele-

bration of historic anniversaries. The wreaths have often been made from Sago palm leaves raised from the shoot of one of the three original palm trees brought to America by one of the Tea Ships which figured in the Boston Tea Party. Mr. Thomas Peter brought the palm slips to Tudor Place, Georgetown. As the years have passed we have been represented at services celebrating the birthdays of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, and the Massing of the Colors at the National Cathedral.

During the Presidency of Mrs. G. Freeland Peter, the District Society celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary on May 2, 1942. Mr. Armistead Peter invited the Society to hold this Golden Jubilee Commemorative Meeting at Tudor Place, Georgetown, the home of the first President, Mrs. Britannia Wellington Kennon. Dr. Freeland Peter, grand-son of our first President, spoke on the history of Tudor Place and the early days of the Society. It was a very beautiful occasion and one long remembered by those attending.

By the year 1949 a beautiful book, "Eleanor Calvert and Her Circle," had been written by one of our members, Mrs. Horace Gates Torbert, Historian. The President, Mrs. G. Freeland Peter, made possible the publication of this book as a Fiftieth Anniversary gift to the Society. Permission was granted by the Society to the author to make use of the material in the Lee Letters given by Mrs. Robert M. Templeman (see Addenda) and also those purchased from Miss Rose MacDonald. Our first President, Mrs. Kennon, was the grand-daughter of Eleanor Calvert.

At the Annual Meeting of 1949 a handsome silver tray was presented to Mrs. G. Freeland Peter, President, by members of the District Society as a token of their affection and appreciation for all she had done for the Society.

Each spring the gardens of Gunston Hall draw their quota of visitors from all over the country. Many of our members act as hostesses here during Virginia Garden Week.

In the fall of 1954 the Queen Mother Elizabeth of England visited this country. During her stay in Washington she made a trip to Mt. Vernon and to Woodlawn. It was arranged that she would also drive down to see Gunston Hall. Our Regent, Mrs. David St. Pierre Gaillard, planned to be there, as did many other Regents. At the last moment the Queen's visit to Gunston Hall was cancelled. However, Mrs. Gaillard went to Gunston as originally planned. Fortunately for our Society she was there, and, with Mr. Griffiths, welcomed the Queen Mother and the British Ambassador, as their plans were again changed and the visit to Gunston was made. The Queen Mother was greatly impressed by the beauty and charm of our lovely Gunston Hall.

A very fine Patriotic Service project was started in 1956 and is being continued. It is the distribution in the Naturalization Courts of patriotic folders to the newly admitted American Citizens. These contain excerpts from a speech by Abraham Lincoln, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Preamble to the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other facts of historic interest. They are extremely attractive, done in red, white, and blue colors, with our American flag. They have been enthusiastically received with special en-

dorsement by the judges. The Naturalization Court meets the second Tuesday morning of each month with about 100 people being naturalized. Special credit is due the New Jersey Society which originated these folders. The Chairman of our Patriotic Service Committee, or one of her members, attends each of these courts. Through the years the cost of these folders has been several hundreds of dollars. The new citizens seem very appreciative of this gesture and honor the folder as a memento of a very important day in their lives.

Our dues originally were \$3.00 a year, later changed to \$5.00 and in 1959 they were raised to \$8.00 a year. This was necessary to meet our obligations and to continue our various activities. A Life Membership in the Society costs \$225.00.

In an effort to stimulate interest in the Federal Constitution Mrs. Raymond W. Barry, Patriotic Service Chairman, in 1960, arranged for a display window in Woodward & Lothrop's store. An accurate and handsome reproduction was made of a section of the sitting-room at Gunston Hall, in which room George Mason wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights. This showed a figure of George Mason sitting at his writing table with quill pen poised over a facsimile of his work, and another figure representing Ann Mason, both wearing beautiful costumes of the period. This was accomplished with the cooperation of Mrs. Lamont duPont Copeland, First Regent, Miss Mary Heyward, Museum Chairman, and Mr. Frederick Griffiths, Director of Gunston Hall. Over one hundred thousand people saw the display during the eight day period.

The Board of Managers voted in 1960 to add to the National Roll of Honor, in addition to the name of its founder, Mrs. Beverley Kennon, the names of the other four Incorporators: Countess Esterhazy, Mrs. James Blair (President 1911-1914), Miss Elizabeth Byrd Nicholas, and Mrs. Oswald Ernst. It also voted to include the names of:

Mrs. Albert Covington Janin, President, 1914-1932; Mrs. William Holland Wilmer, National Secretary, 1925-1928, National Second Vice President, 1931-1934; Mrs. John R. Mott (Miss Agnes Peter), President, 1932-1937; and Mrs. Fairfax Harrison, President, 1937-1941.

In the latter part of 1960 the Board felt the urgent need for a revision of our By-laws. Under the very able chairmanship of Mrs. John W. Davidge, and with a very capable committee, a complete study was made. The revised By-laws were accepted by the Society at the Annual Meeting in May 1961.

The new Fourteenth Street bridge over the Potomac was named "George Mason Bridge." We were delighted that the efforts of our Regent and others were successful in procuring this honor for an outstanding patriot. The dedication ceremony took place on January 26, 1962.

It is with a sense of pride that we note on March 20, 1962, at a ceremony in the Departmental Auditorium, the "Five Year Work Award" was presented by the American Red Cross to our member, Mrs. J. Swagar Sherley, for her knitting project which she has continued with the help of members of our Society.

The Seventieth Annual Meeting of the District Society was held at "Hayes Manor," the beautiful historic home of Mrs. G. Thomas Dunlop, on May 16, 1962. Mrs. Dunlop is one of our members and a former officer of our District Society.

Through the years many gifts have been made to and by the District Society in the form of memorials, markers, and miscellaneous contributions. These are listed chronologically in the Addenda.

A complete list of Books and Publications contributed to the Society with donors mentioned may be found in the Library at Dumbarton House. Only those books written by members of our District Society are listed in the Addenda.

As the Domicile Society we make the plans and arrangements for the running of the Councils as they meet here every two years. In October 1962 we will be having our thirty-fourth Council. We feel we are very fortunate, living here in Washington, because our paths cross with friends and members from all over the Country.

Our District Society membership has now grown to three hundred since the original meeting of thirty-five Washington ladies. Unfortunately, the limitation of space prevents mention by name of those devoted members who, over the years, have been responsible for the many accomplishments of the District Society. We, of the present, like those who have gone before us, are proud to be members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia. It is our hope to continue in the future the preservation of the priceless principles which our Colonial Ancestors passed on to us as a sacred trust.

Dorothy Fowler Munster
(Mrs. Norman L. Munster)
Historian

ADDENDA

Books and Publications by Members of the District Society

- 1932—"Forty Years of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia," by Sophie Radford DeMeissner, Historian.
- 1941—"An Index of Genealogical Records and Books of Ancestry," compiled and bound by Minta Hull, Registrar.
- 1948—"A Short Digest of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the District of Columbia, 1932-1942," by Mary Lee Mann, Ph.D., Historian.
- 1949—"Eleanor Calvert and Her Circle," by Alice Coyle Torbert.
- 1951—"A Portrait of Old Georgetown," by Grace Dunlop Ecker.
- 1957—"Lee Chronicle," by Dorothy Mills Parker.
- 1959—"Cleveland Park," by Grace Dunlop Peter and Joyce D. Southwick.
- 1959—"A Yankee Jeffersonian, Diaries and Letters of William Lee," by Mary Lee Mann.
- 1959—"Arlington Heritage," Vignettes of a Virginia County, by Eleanor Lee Templeman.

ADDENDA

Gifts, Markers, and Memorials

- 1895—A handsome silver bound gavel made from wood grown at Mt. Vernon was presented to the President of the District Society by Miss Katharine Cropper.
- 1896—A \$10.00 gold piece was given to a student in the District schools for best essay on Colonial History. The prize essay was read before the Society at the meeting following the giving of the award. This gift continued many years.
- 1898—A gavel was presented to the Society by 1st Sgt. James E. Leeman, Co. D., D. C. Vol. in appreciation of the many kindnesses extended to his family and others connected with the Regiment. The gavel was made from wood taken by Mr. Leeman from the famous Block House at San Juan, Santiago de Cuba, after capture of that place by United States Forces.
- 1899—A lot in Kenilworth, D. C. was presented to the Society by a Charter Member, Miss Ellen P. deQ. Woodbury. (It was necessary to own property in the District in order to secure a Charter.)
- 1900—Plaque placed on rock known as "Braddock Rock" in grounds of the Naval Hospital, near Potomac River, commemorating the landing of the forces of General Braddock in 1755. Because of a necessary change in the topography of the land the plaque was later removed and returned to the District Society.
- 1904—Silver pitcher and Salver, George III period, was presented to the Society by the National Society "in acknowledgment and appreciation of many courtesies and much hospitality."
- 1906—The Society sent a petition to Congress for the preservation of Niagara Falls.
- 1907—The Society evidenced great interest in the Colonial Loan Exhibition held in Octagon House during the Jamestown Exhibition. This was to help raise funds for the Jamestown Memorial.
A bronze tablet was presented by the Society to the Church at Jamestown, Virginia, restored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.
(Due to loss of minutes 1917-22 the following data is taken from the Sophie Radford De Meissner history of the District Society.)
- 1918—During the war two automobiles were given by the Society to the Y.M.C.A. and salary of \$75.00 a month paid for ten months to a secretary for operating the motors.
Recreation rooms at Quantico were equipped by the Society and much clothing was given by our members to the Red Cross.
- 1932—The Society planted two willow-oaks on Mount Vernon Boulevard commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of George Washington.

- 1937—A knitted night cap, beaded bag and shoes were given by Mrs. Bessie Wilmarth Gahn to the Society. These were presented to the Gahn family by Lafayette.
- 1941—Mrs. Richard Graham Davenport, a Charter Member of the District Society, gave \$100.00 to be used as a “nest egg” for a building or headquarters fund for the Society.
 A trunk of valuable genealogical records, 1654-1836, old wills, records of marriages and related families was given by Mrs. Lloyd P. Shippen. Books and games were sent to Soldiers, Sailors and Marine Club.
 A copy of the first Oath of Allegiance (Delaware) was given to the Society by Mrs. George Wilcox McIver and her daughter Mrs. Harold H. Leich.
 An old “Helmet Pitcher” was a gift from Miss Rose MacDonald.
 An old doll given by Miss Laura Campbell.
 A large and valuable collection of letters from Eleanor Calvert, wife of John Parke Custis (son of Martha Washington) to Mrs. Richard Bland Lee (nee Elizabeth Collins of Philadelphia) was presented to the District Society by Mrs. Robert M. Templeman (nee Eleanor Lee Reading), the great-great grand-daughter of Mrs. Lee. In 1944 Mrs. Templeman was invited to become a Life Member of our Society in grateful appreciation of her beautiful gift and contribution to the Society.
- 1942—Another collection of Lee Letters was purchased by the Society for \$50.00 from Miss Rose MacDonald. These supplemented the already very valuable collection given by Mrs. Templeman.
 Magazines and books on history were purchased for Service Clubs of the Armed Forces.
- 1943—A plaque marking the only remaining boundary stone in Georgetown was placed in the garden of the William Laird Dunlop house, 3014 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.
- 1944—A letter from President Thomas Jefferson and a letter from Nathaniel Pendleton II, aide-de-camp to General Gaines, were given to the Society by Mrs. Donald Jones.
 A complete and beautifully executed Chart of the Family Tree of Mrs. Robert M. Templeman (Eleanor Lee Reading) was presented to the Society by Mrs. Templeman.
 Christmas boxes (30 at \$1.00 each) were sent to the Service Hospitals of the District.
- 1945—Beautiful Chinese porcelain bowl presented to the Society by Mrs. William C. Taylor.
- 1946—Christmas presents (100) were sent by the Society to service men in Forest Glen Hospital.
 A gift of more than 30 books was sent by Mrs. G. Freeland Peter to the Merchant Marine in the name of the District Society.
 A Citation from U. S. Treasury was presented to District Society for their cooperation rendered in behalf of the War Finance Program.

- 1947—Christmas presents costing \$135.00 were sent to D. C. Hospitals.
- 1948—Ninety-six pounds of clothing were sent to Mrs. Walter Anderson in London for distribution to the needy war victims.
- 1949—A Ballot Box made of walnut from Mt. Vernon was presented by the District Society to Mrs. Ruth Streeter, our National Society President, for use at Biennial Councils.
 A check of \$1000.00 was presented to the District Society by Mrs. G. Freeland Peter, "in memory of Mrs. Beverley Kennon (Britannia Wellington Peter), Founder, Incorporator and First President of the District Society; second in descent Col. John Parke Custis of Arlington—Aide-de-camp to his step-father General Washington." This check was placed in an endowment fund.
 A silver tray was presented to Mrs. G. Freeland Peter by the District Society in affection and appreciation for all she had done for the Society.
 A very handsome formal tablecloth was given to Dumbarton House by Mrs. Warren L. Stephenson.
 Photostatic copies of all the Richard Bland Lee Letters and papers in our file were given to the District Society by Mrs. Detlow M. Marthinson. Anyone, with permission from the Historian may have access to them.
 A silver loving cup was given the Society by Mrs. William Carroll Fraser.
- 1950—A plaque was placed on St. Pauls Episcopal Church, Rock Creek Parish.
 A picture of Dumbarton House taken before its restoration was presented to the District Society by Miss Helen Bailey.
 A plaque was placed on historic "Ever May." This was a gift from Mr. Belin, the owner of the estate.
 A plaque was placed on Pierce Mill, Rock Creek Park, Washington, D. C. A handsome Stand of Colors was presented to the District Society by the National Board in appreciation of its work for the Councils.
- 1951—A plaque was placed by the District Society on the entrance wall of Dumbarton House. This was given to the National Society.
 Copies of Family Bible Records were given to Historical Activities Committee by Mrs. Guy Withers.
- 1953—\$300.00 was allocated to buy a copy of the Wollaston portrait of the Custis children by C. Gregory Stepko in memory of Mrs. Beverley Kennon (nee Britannia Wellington Peter). This portrait given by the District Society now hangs in the Custis-Lee Mansion, Arlington, Virginia.
- 1954—A bequest of \$3000.00 was left to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America by Miss Julia Herrick Hunt, to be known as the Violet Blair Janin Trust Fund. The proceeds from this fund are given to the District Society.
 The District Society received a portrait of Clarissa Knott Burbridge, great-aunt of Miss Katharine Cropper, daughter of Louisa Knott and

John Burbridge. This was painted by Charles Cromwell Ingham in 1849.

- 1956—A plaque was placed at Fort duPont, a Civil War Fortress. This was a gift of the District Society to the District of Columbia, and was accepted by the officials of the National Park Service.
Another plaque was installed on a large boulder at Fort Davis, Civil War Fortress, honoring Colonel Benjamin F. Davis.
Through the help and interest of Mrs. Raymond W. Barry, Gunston Hall received on permanent loan from the Smithsonian Institution a stuffed mockingbird, reminiscent of George Mason's mockingbird, which was placed in the chippendale bird cage.
- 1958—Through the Historic Activities Committee, the District Society gave \$75.00 to our Regent of Gunston Hall. A beautiful silver "pap boat" was purchased with this gift.
- 1959—Through the Historic Activities Committee a very fine hutch table (circa 1780) was found, approved and purchased for the Old Stone House project of the National Park Service. They have the use of it on an "indefinite loan basis."
- 1961—The Patriotic Service Committee of the District Society has furnished two tape recorded speeches pertaining to patriotism and freedom. One is by Vice Admiral William R. Smedberg, the subject being "Citizenship, Patriotism, and the Military." The other recording was made by Judge Luther W. Youngdahl, who presides at the Naturalization Court. His speech is a repetition of his very warm and cordial welcome to those who have just become American Citizens. Both of these excellent recordings have been heard by many civic organizations.
The book, "George Mason of Gunston Hall" by Helen Hill Miller, was placed by Mrs. Warren I. Stephenson, Chairman of the Gunston Hall Committee, in four public and private schools in the District. A beautiful copy of the original Charles Willson Peale portrait of William Buckland, architect of Gunston Hall, was given by Mrs. David St. Pierre Gaillard to Gunston Hall. The original painting hangs at Yale University.
A very handsome marble and sandstone sarcophagus for the grave of George Mason at Gunston Hall was given by one of our members, Mrs. Henry Parsons Erwin. It is a duplicate of that of his wife, Ann Eilbeck. The dedication ceremonies took place on October 18, 1961 during the meeting of the Regents of Gunston Hall.
- 1962—A beautiful silver punch and toddy strainer dated 1752 was presented to Gunston Hall. This was given jointly by the District Society and their Regent, Mrs. David St. Pierre Gaillard.
Lovely silver sugar pincers and an 18th Century rug, for the Chinese Chippendale Room of Gunston Hall, were presented by Mr. and Mrs. David St. Pierre Gaillard.
Twelve Hester Bateman teaspoons, a silver tea caddy spoon made in Dublin, and a Chinese export porcelain spoon tray were presented to Gunston Hall by Mrs. J. Lawrence Walsh.
A lectern was presented to Dumbarton House by the District Society.

ADDENDA

Contributions and Purchases

- 1897—\$25.00 donated toward the restoration of "Old Christ Church," built
In 1732 by Robert Carter, in Lancaster County, Virginia.
- 1898—\$30.00 given to the Spanish American War Relief Fund.
\$20.00 donated toward furnishing the colonial kitchen in the head-
quarters of General Washington at Rocky Hill, New Jersey.
- 1899—\$50.00 sent to the widows and orphans of soldiers of Spanish Ameri-
can War.
- 1900—\$25.00 given to needy families of the volunteers of Spanish American
War.
\$40.00 given for work in alleviating suffering in the Philippines.
- 1901—\$100.00 given to the National Committee for Spanish War Memorial.
Dedication April 22, 1902.
- 1903—\$25.00 donated toward the John Smith Memorial Statue.
\$25.00 donated toward the purchase of Carlyle House, Alexandria,
Virginia.
- 1910—\$25.00 given to help restore Rising Sun Tavern, in Fredericksburg,
Virginia.
- 1916—\$75.00 given by the District Society to the National Society for a
scholarship in honor of Mrs. Katharine Cabell Cox.
\$60.00 to this date given toward purchase of Sulgrave Manor, England.
- 1917—\$505.00 was given by the District Society toward the equipping of a
hospital ship, through the National Society.
\$450.00 was sent to the Russian Red Cross in Petrograd.
\$50.00 was given to Bishop Lawrence's Fund for Camp Chaplains.
In order that the war work might be carried on two card parties were
held in 1917 clearing \$2200.00.
- 1925—During most of the early years of the 1920s the Society had as its chief
project the raising of funds for Sulgrave Manor. To this our Society
contributed its quota of \$1230.00.
\$50.00 was given to the George Washington Birthday Celebration,
about 60 patriotic societies participated.
- 1929—\$400.00 given by the Society to defray expenses of sending a Boy
Scout to the International Jamboree in England.
- 1933—By 1933 our quota of \$4050.00 toward the purchase of Dumbarton
House had been oversubscribed by \$232.06.
\$150.00 was paid for the making of the Colonial Georgetown Map.
- 1935—\$100.00 given toward the purchase of the portrait of the Stoddert
children by Charles Willson Peale, now in Dumbarton House.

- 1938—\$50.00 paid for a life membership in Mary Washington Association, Fredericksburg, Virginia.
\$50.00 given to Stratford Endowment Fund.
- 1939—\$50.00 donated toward the purchase of the Mason Tea set for Gunston Hall.
- 1939-1945—Contributions of at least \$120.00 a year were given toward the education of two Indian girls, Loretta Sherman and Carlotta Welsh.
- 1941—\$502.00 given by the Society, at the Golden Jubilee Dinner, to the National Society in memory of its first President, Mrs. Britannia W. Kennon.
\$275.00 was paid for a set of slides, "Pictorial Washington."
\$100.00 paid for the projector for the slides.
- 1942—\$25.00 given to the National Society for Red Cross work at Dumbarton House.
Three large tables were given by Miss Louisa Adams Clement for use in this Red Cross work.
\$25.00 sent to the American Eagle Hut in London.
\$300.00 sent to the U.S.O. Center sponsored by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America for service men in Ketchikan, Alaska.
\$187.00 spent for books for Service Clubs, Red Cross and the Washington Girls Club.
\$100.00 given to the American Red Cross.
\$35.00 given to Hampshire House.
\$50.00 given to the Red Cross, as part of our 50th Anniversary celebration.
- 1943—\$25.00 given by Mrs. Bullock-Willis through our Society to the U.S.O. Center in Ketchikan, Alaska.
\$25.00 given by Mrs. William J. Harris to Ketchikan, Alaska.
\$100.00 sent to the American Red Cross by the Society.
\$25.00 gift to the Robert E. Lee Foundation.
- 1944—A lot in Kenilworth, a gift to the Society, was sold for \$80.00.
\$175.00 sent to the American Red Cross.
- 1946—\$230.00 was sent by the Society to the U.S.O. Center, Ketchikan, Alaska.
\$100.00 given to the American Red Cross.
\$55.00 given to Gunston Hall.
\$250.00 given to Gunston Hall by the District Society.
- 1948—\$400.00 given to Gunston Hall.
- 1949—\$230.00 total to date given to Woodlawn Foundation.
- 1950—\$528.50 contributed to the Funds for Gunston. Our quota was \$3000.00.

- 1951—\$5.00 sent to U.S.S. Gunston Hall to buy records for Christmas.
- 1952—\$4171.50 was the grand total given to Gunston Hall. We exceeded our quota.
 \$10.00 was sent to Fund for Recreation Area, Henderson Hall for Women Marines. This area was dedicated in honor of Mrs. Thomas W. Streeter, our National President at that time.
- 1953—\$100.00 donated to the Soldiers-Sailors-Marines and Airmens Club.
- 1954—\$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
- 1955—\$500.00 given by the District Society to Gunston Hall.
 \$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
- 1956—\$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
- 1957—\$25.00 for membership in The National Trust.
 \$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
- 1958—\$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
 \$25.00 for membership in The National Trust.
- 1959—\$75.00 given to Gunston Hall.
 \$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
 \$150.00 given to Historic Activities Committee.
 \$25.00 for membership in The National Trust.
- 1960—\$75.00 given to Gunston Hall.
 \$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
 \$100.00 given anonymously by a member of the District Society to Gunston Hall
 \$350.00 contributed by the District Society toward planting and restoring the flagstone walk and wall at the Mary Washington Monument in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Mary Washington, mother of George Washington, is buried there.
 \$25.00 for membership in The National Trust.
- 1961—\$75.00 given to Scholarship in American History.
 \$75.00 given to Gunston Hall.
 \$25.00 for membership in The National Trust.