

A History  
of  
The National Society of The Colonial Dames  
of America  
in  
the State of North Carolina  
1994-2019

~ A Compilation of Voices ~

by Mary Strange Eggleston



This history of the North Carolina Society, 1994-2019,  
is dedicated to two beloved Presidents who sadly missed  
the 125th Anniversary Celebrations:  
Georgia Cobb Joyner, deceased February 25, 2019  
Lillian Bellamy Boney, deceased March 2, 2019.

## Table of Contents

Opening Remarks .....	1
<u>Presidential terms:</u>	
Mary Taylor .....	2
Georgia Joyner .....	3-4
Mary Koonce.....	4
Cissy Loughlin .....	5
Elizabeth King.....	6
Margaret Freeman.....	7-8
Annie Gray Lane.....	8-9
Ginger Finley .....	9-10
Mary Eggleston .....	10-11
Betsy King .....	11-12
Margaret Hamilton .....	12-13
Sara Larkin.....	14
Photo Gallery of the 125th Celebration .....	16-21
The Houses .....	22
The Houses and the NSCDA-NC .....	23
The Fourth House .....	24-28
JLMH .....	29-32
BWH .....	33-40
HH .....	41-46
<u>The County Committee Properties:</u>	
The Rosedale Revival.....	47-49
The Oval Room .....	Coming soon
Index of Officers	

# NSCDA-NC HISTORY 1994-2019 A Compilation of Voices

To celebrate the 125th year of the NSCDA-NC, I have been asked to chronicle a history of the Society from 1994-2019. It is a privilege to take on this challenge knowing what dynamic work has occurred.

Since its inception in 1891, The National Society of Colonial Dames has been a force in historic preservation across the United States. In fact, the society is second only to the federal government in its ownership of historic properties. Because of this outstanding record of conserving American history, the NSCDA has become a topic discussed in public history courses across the nation. Imagine that!

Of the thirteen original colonies, North Carolina was the last to join the NSCDA. The stars aligned in 1892 when Mrs. George W. Kidder (Florence Hill) was invited to join the Board of Lady Managers of the highly anticipated Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893. This celebrated board was one of the earliest legislated actions by Congress for women's equality. Florence Hill Kidder from Wilmington marched enthusiastically into this group where she met ladies from around the country who included suffragists and members of a newly formed group called The National Society of Colonial Dames. A fresh idea was forming in America that women could make a difference, too. It did not take long after the fair ended for North Carolina to join this fledgling group called the NSCDA with Florence Kidder at the N.C. helm.

Since then, the North Carolina Society has lived up to the phrase "last but not least". The NSCDA-NC can proudly boast ownership of more historic homes and admission of more members than any other corporate society of Dames in the country. This success is due in part to the desire to hold on to our democratic ideals, those sacred ideals that built this country. It is also due to the understanding that dedicated women can, indeed, make a difference, too.

It seems proper to title this book a compilation. I have asked numerous members, and a few non-members, across the state to write about their experiences with the work of the NSCDA-NC. Many voices have created these 25 years, and those voices should be heard. I especially thank those who have worked closely with the book: Berta Hamilton, Muffy Boylan, Nancy Haywood, Belle Long, Fairley Bell Cook, Joy Allen, Christine Lamberton, and my fellow State Presidents.

I must cite Frances Sutherland Lee in her forward to her 1961-1994 history. Her words express my sentiments exactly. "...we must remember that it will only be possible to hit the high spots of the society's accomplishments. For each individual and group mentioned who gave of themselves, there are many, many more unnamed."

My hope is that the book is not only educational, but enjoyable. Thank you to Sara Larkin, the current NSCDA-NC President, for this opportunity.

Mary Eggleston  
NSCDA-NC President 2010-2014



## A Tour Through the Presidential Terms

In the spring of 1994 Mary Hill Taylor presided over the NSCDA-NC in its 100th anniversary year. When opening the Annual Meeting that April, she quoted Florence Hill Kidder at her first annual meeting of the North Carolina Society held on January 2, 1895. The minutes from this first meeting read, *"We now have 25 enthusiastic members and many more (are) awaiting admission. We do not wish our Society to become merely a fashionable fad; it must be beyond and above this."* Of course, our current society has 1,787 members, 22 county committees, three open museum houses, one original Moravian house in Old Salem, and net assets of 3.3 million. *Florence, how are we doing?*

Mary was especially pleased to be the President during the Society's 100th Anniversary. Here she is in her own words. "The most important happening this year is the celebration of the 100th birthday of the North Carolina Society. Gifts always add to any celebration and we have received several." There was one particular gift that was close to Mary's heart. "It is my great pleasure to announce today a gift in memory of a person who loved the Dames, and who was loved by many of us- Anne Kidder Moore Bacon -granddaughter of our first president. Through the generosity of her son, Louis Moore Bacon, the restoration of the Colonial kitchen building will become a reality and named for the person being honored." *Mary, 1994*

Some other ways that the North Carolina Society celebrated are mentioned in Mary's Annual Meeting presentation in 1994. "Mementoes are also an important part of a birthday. The Commemorative Halcyon Enamel Box depicting the Burgwin-Wright House designed by Mrs. James Carr," was one. Another "very special way to remember this occasion" was an updated history written by Frances Southerland Lee covering the dates 1961-1994. *Thank you Frances for the history. And thank you Mary, President, 1993-1994*



Georgia, Mary Taylor, and Cissy

As Mary Taylor passed the gavel to Georgia Cobb Joyner, the new president for '94-'96, the world was quite different from our world of 2019. Bill Clinton was in the White House immersed in the Whitewater Scandal, a trip to the movies cost \$4.00, and *Forrest Gump* was the favorite of the year. If you owned a computer it was heavy, the size of a TV set on your desk. No one could have guessed that in 25 years we would all carry tiny computers in our purses that would multitask to include a phone, camera, social media connections, and Google Maps; AND that we would all know how to use them!

**Fiscal factoid: In 1994 the Museum Houses Trust Fund was at \$448,988.33. The Society had 1500 members.**

At the end of dear Georgia's first year she reported to her membership, "I have had the most rewarding year, having enjoyed so very much visits to committee meetings across the state, and have found that Colonial Dames are the most gracious, thoughtful, generous, patriotic, talented, and smartest group I know, so I ask for your strong guidance as I continue my journey with you for another year."  
*Georgia 1994 annual meeting*

It was Georgia's idea to start a finance committee. "We have formed a new Finance Committee with the help of Mrs. William G. Broadfoot, Jr. (Mary) as Chairman." Its purpose was to discuss policies, programs, and requests for money before they reach the treasurer. Georgia's handsome husband Bill was a bank President so Georgia knew more about money management than most. To her credit, the finance committee remains an important standing committee to this day.

She also made the determination that the three house museums should earn accreditation. (The Fourth House had earned accreditation in 1992.) This certification became a long learning process that, in this case, would span three NSCDA-NC presidential terms. At that time, The National Society of Colonial Dames had an accreditation team that would visit the state, review the houses, make recommendations, and recheck each one for improvements before awarding accreditation. It was a visionary move on Georgia's part to tackle this project, and she successfully met the challenge.  
*Thanks Georgia.*

"We (Karla and I) began our adventures together by attending many required meetings in Wilmington, where we found ourselves to be in the delightful company of Cissy Loughlin, Jocelyn Strange, Mary Bellamy Swanson and a host of other charming Dames! I recall that on one of our trips to Wilmington, we chauffeured the national accreditation team: our National President, Marcy Moody, and Frannie Peabody (who was in her eighties and full of energy) and Mary Lou Sprague, both from Portland, Maine! What an inspiration these ladies were with their dedicated work for the Colonial Dames, as well as to their other time-consuming occupations! Karla and I were very fortunate to be invited, with our husbands, to meet in New Orleans, Savannah, St. Augustine and Jacksonville, where we were wined and dined in many of the beautiful Museum Houses! To name a few, we visited the the Ximenez-Fatio House in Saint Augustine, the Andrew Low House in Savannah, and Cokie Roberts mother's home(Lindsay Boggs) in the French Quarter of New Orleans! There were many other trips in North Carolina, where we reported on our Museum Houses to the Dames at our membership meetings and were highly entertained afterwards! The accreditation process was lengthy and intense; however, being in the company of Margie Haywood, Cecilia Winslow, Claire Alexander and Belle Long Edwards in Raleigh and the other very attractive Dames that we met on our many other adventures made the job a very Happy Memory!" *Mrs. Thomas Benbury Wood (Jane), Museum Properties chair, 1997*

At the next state board meeting Janie reports on her trip to the 50th Biennial Council. "The newly revised guidelines pamphlet for museums was made available. This book is intended for the Museum Houses Chairmen and Committees who want to keep pace with the best of museum procedures or choose to apply for accreditation. Mrs. Karla Valentine held a preliminary workshop to explain the accreditation kit. A detailed checklist of questions involving the different aspects of administration, mission statements, governance, collections, interpretation and history, general programs, and security are all reviewed."  
*Jane Wood reporting to the Board, 1995*

In anticipation of the visit from the national committee, the Joel Lane Board was undergoing some changes. Amy Carr Thullen, JL Board President, reports: "The Joel Lane Board itself must do a little housecleaning, homework, and organizing to make sure it is in shape." Amy further explains to the audience at the Annual Meeting in 1995 that JLMH is applying for accreditation. "If I showed you a copy of the questionnaire we will be trying to complete in order to receive accreditation, you would quickly understand that we have a very large organizational task ahead of us." *Thanks Amy.*



Mary Bellamy Swanson (Koonce)

When Mary Bellamy Swanson (Koonce) took the gavel from Georgia Joyner for the upcoming '98-'00 Presidency, the accreditation team had already made their visit to North Carolina. (And, what a charming chauffeur Janie Wood made for this important group!) The Burgwin-Wright House and Joel Lane House had officially applied for accreditation and were waiting to hear. (Adding to the suspense of the year were two unendorsed visitors, Hurricane Bertha and Hurricane Fran.) In her first annual report Mary mentioned the months of preparation prior to the team visit and further commented:

"Certification by this important committee will enhance the stature of our museum houses by assuring the public, and those to whom we may apply for grants, that they are maintained and operated in a professional manner. We expect their approval soon." *Mary Bellamy Swanson, 1998*

At the Region III National Board Meeting in Savannah, Mary was presented with two certificates of accreditation by the National Accreditation team – one for the Joel Lane House and one for the Burgwin-Wright House. Only one to go!

While having the pretty looks and gentle drawl of a Southern Belle, Mary's true forte was money. At finance committee meetings she arrived with her manilla file folder, an approved source of prior decisions made by this committee. Because of her mathematical leanings, she forever carried the banner of the Museum Houses Trust Fund started in the sixties by the sheer perspicacity of Isabel Lehto. President Swanson announced at her Annual Meeting in 1998, "Our campaign to increase the capital of the Museum Houses Trust Fund has had an unprecedented response in the past two years from you, our faithful members, and from your County Committees." In closing Mary said, "Always remember that being a Colonial Dame is a privilege – a privilege that carries with it an obligation." *Thanks Mary.*

**Fiscal factoid: By the end of Mary Swanson's second year the MHTF held assets of \$656,431.16, a jump of over \$150,000 in one year.**

In the spring of 1998, Cissy Loughlin began her third term as NSCDA-NC president; her first two consecutive terms spanned 1988-1992. Among many other accomplishments, she ushered in the age of technology by declaring that the lineage papers should be scanned, digitized, and stored on discs for safe keeping. This was in February of 1999 and, from here on, there was no turning back, for the Computer Age had begun.

“Today we are proudly moving into the 21st Century. Exciting computer technology is already at work for us at the Burgwin-Wright House, our headquarters house in Wilmington. With the help of technology, all 4,478 sets of lineage papers and proofs have been scanned and put on computer discs. This now enables our State Registrar and State Genealogist to easily retrieve information, access files, catalogue and print lineage papers when necessary. It is comforting to know that these important documents are safe and accessible for future generations.” *Cissy Loughlin, 1999 Annual Meeting*

In September of 1999 another unendorsed visitor swept through Eastern North Carolina. Hurricane Floyd brought a deluge to Eastern NC. But, despite flooding and great loss from the coast to the Piedmont, our houses stood strong with only minimal roof repair to the kitchen house at Headquarters.

“I could not conclude this report without commenting on the disastrous weather North Carolina endured this year. It reminds me of a story I heard recently about a man who had just returned from a long trip to London. ‘How did you find the weather in London?’ asked the man’s wife upon his return. The husband responded, ‘You don’t find the weather in London, it bumps into you at every corner.’ I am happy to report, said Cissy, that all four of our museum houses withstood the terrible ‘bumps’ from our weather undamaged.” *Cissy, charming reporter, 1999*

Reporting on her visit to Biennial Council in October of 1999, Cissy was pleased to announce that she accepted a national accreditation certificate for Haywood Hall. The other certificates for JLMH and BWH were awarded to Mary Swanson during her watch, concluding a process for our museum houses started by Georgia Joyner in 1994. Success at last!

At the 106th Annual Meeting in 2000 President Loughlin reported on updates to an important Dames document.

“Over the years there have been numerous changes and additions to our bylaws since we were incorporated in 1894. A newly revised updated booklet of our bylaws was printed this year. I thank Mrs. William Broadfoot and Mrs. James D. Carr for their hard work on this project.” Going forward, bylaw changes would be included in the yearly Blue Book. Not until 2018 would a complete revision of the bylaws be undertaken. *Thanks Cissy.*

(Between Cissy’s second and third terms, she generously served the Burgwin-Wright House in her role as Restoration Chairman. This important chapter in the history of HQ will be discussed in the section entitled Headquarters, the Burgwin-Wright House.)

**Fiscal factoid: In 2000, the MHTF was \$739,720 and the membership was 1,540.**





Cissy Loughlin, Elizabeth King, Sissy Grantham

When Cissy handed the gavel to Elizabeth King in 2000 she was welcoming a friend who had become a close co-worker in the NSCDA-NC. Between Cissy's encyclopedic knowledge of the Society, and Elizabeth's contemporary ideas, this traveling team of enthusiasts made their mark for decades, not only in North Carolina, but also at the national level. (Details of national service at the end of the text.)

In her second year as president, Elizabeth King introduced a legacy program to fast track daughters into the NSCDA-NC membership without crowding the county quotas. This new initiative was called The Millennium Legacy Program.

This avenue for daughter/granddaughter admissions was popular! No doubt, it was extremely work-intensive for the registrar, the genealogists, the executive secretary, the county chairmen, the many endorsers, and the President. But, it was a huge success! At the end, it had ushered 270 daughters and granddaughters into the state society. And, it was a method that would be repeated again 13 years later. "The most time consuming activity of this year was admissions." *Elizabeth King*

**Museum moment: On the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Burgwin-Wright House as a museum, the house committee, chaired by Martha Best Lawson, hosted a 50-50 Day. The community was invited in for only 50 cents, the price of entry 50 years before! It was a great success with 325 people visiting the house in that one day.**

At her second annual meeting in April of 2002, there was one somber topic to mention. That subject was 9/11. "In spite of the horrible atrocities we have witnessed against our government, our people, and our nation, I am proud to report that North Carolina Dames have remained steadfast in continuing their mission to promote the objects of our society with enthusiasm and interest.

Elizabeth met the challenge of her four year presidency with two goals in mind: member education and member participation. Using the template of a National booklet, Elizabeth adding her North Carolina input, published the "NC Dictionary for Dames" and printed a copy for each state member. The booklet defined terms, places and programs of the NSCDA and NSCDA-NC. This information remains in use today for inclusion in new member packets and is also available on the website. Elizabeth traveled the state giving workshops, holding board meetings in other cities, and introducing various skits to inform and amuse the members. Two examples of these delightful moments were the "Traveling Trunk Show" (Dames' properties), and "Who Wants to be a Colonial Dame?" (Dames'

activities) These creative techniques opened the door to future fun ideas to support the NSCDA-NC mission. *Thanks Elizabeth.*

**Fiscal factoid: For the first time since 1993, the dues were raised from \$85 to \$100.**



Katherine and Margaret

within a year. The success of this enormous task is proven by the fact that her abbreviated method remains in use today (2019).

The horrific aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans received much sympathy from our NC Dames. The members of the NSCDA-NC combined to send a check to the LA Dames to help repair the Louisiana Dames' Headquarters. In thanking her audience for their response, Margaret shared, "We received a very grateful thank you note from the President on behalf of the Louisiana Society." MSF

In Margaret Freeman's years in office, she, too, thought of some amusing moments to make. Here is her colorful explanation of a fundraiser:

"Well, the 'Roots to Riches Raffle' almost caused another Revolution last night. The format of this raffle was to buy as many different names as you wanted, at \$10 a name, from a list of all N.C. ancestors...and hope that the roots you selected would make you rich. This was the first time we had held this raffle, and it proved to be fruitful. Skirmishes over the different ancestors were well fought, and instead of capturing Redcoats, our North Carolina Dames captured a total of \$5000. \$2500 of it was donated to the Museum Houses Trust Fund and \$2500 was used to line the pockets of these lucky Dames...Congratulations to Jeanie Bellamy, Connie Grine, Martha Best Lawson and Nancy Sitterson who rooted for the following ancestors: Randall Holt II, Colonel John Battle, Martin Phifer Senior, and Thomas Dixon." MSF,'03

Besides making it fun, Margaret worked extensively to streamline the admissions process and membership practices. Her logical changes to the demanding admissions system proved more usable, more concise, and able to be completed

In order to infuse energy and enthusiasm into county and state meetings, Margaret looked for ways to add interest by lightening up the format. Rather than have the Dames only listen to reports, she thought of ways to meet that would encourage greater attendance. Finding noteworthy and personable speakers greatly increased attendance in 2005 and 2006. With speakers like Letitia Baldrige, Jackie O's chief of staff, and John Berendt, author of the popular novel "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil", how could you go wrong? "The feedback from these meetings was overwhelming!", reported Margaret. Her meeting improvements were noticed by National, and she was asked to share her ideas at both the Region III Conference and Biennial. She even received personal phone calls from various societies around the country asking about the format changes. It is no wonder that Margaret was noticed by National. Ironically, at Margaret's first annual meeting she proudly announced, "we are now represented on the National Executive Board by three very smart and attractive members: Cissy Loughlin, Elizabeth King, and Katherine Taylor." Little did she know that by 2016 her name would be added to the list of our NC members who would have the honor of holding a position at the national level during this period of 25 years. (Again, check the end of the text for details.)

*Thanks Margaret.*

**Fiscal factoid: In 2004 the MHTF is at \$802,278 and the membership is 1,762.**

Annie Gray Lane began her presidency in 2006. At the time she was living in Rocky Mount and not in Wilmington, the NSCDA-NC seat of government. She was not the least bit daunted by her seminal role as the first "out of town" president. She had already had two fun positions with the NSCDA-NC: State County Committee Chairman and Friend of Sulgrave Manor. During her term with Sulgrave, she had this sad yet informative report to deliver at the annual meeting.

"Following the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, we received notice reminding us of the long standing connection between Sulgrave Manor and the Spencer family. Several generations of George Washington's ancestors are buried in the Anglican Church in Great Brighton where all of the Spencers repose. There were numerous interactions between the two families, both in

business and in marriage, in the 17th and 18th Centuries. More recently, Diana's father, the late Earl of Spencer, was a member of the Sulgrave Manor Board." *Annie Gray, 1998*



Annie Gray Lane

One of the challenges of Annie Gray's first year was to fill the position of Executive Secretary. Mary Ann Saylor, the ever faithful secretary, retired for medical reasons. With the help of Cissy and Elizabeth, Miss Charlene Pete was hired. Miss Pete had retired from



banking and brought with her many abilities, not the least of which were computer skills. What a godsend for headquarters and for the board!

At the 2007 Annual Meeting in Greensboro Annie Gray announced a new initiative that would be more fully explained by the speaker for this event. Here is her introduction:

“Our culture and our world are changing rapidly. More young women are in the work force on a full-time basis, and have less time to devote to such activities. We need to be preparing for the future of our organization. I recently formed a study committee to evaluate how the North Carolina Society can be both most efficient and most effective in the 21st century. To assist in this process, we were indeed fortunate to obtain the services of Bill Hinman, who is also doing a study of Dumbarton House for the National Society at this time. Our committee is meeting monthly with Bill to exchange ideas and to reflect upon our concerns.” *Annie Gray, 2006-2008*

What a significant move! Bill was a graduate of Wake Forest University, a graduate of the prestigious Seminar for Historical Administration to Williamsburg, and served as the President of the North Carolina Museums Council. It was a good fit for the NSCDA-NC, and so it began. The era of self-improvement was underway. *Thanks Annie Gray.*

In April of 2008, Ginger Finley of Raleigh became the second NSCDA-NC president to have the distinction of living outside of New Hanover County. She followed the other non-resident president, Annie Gray, who lived in Rocky Mount. To be a non-resident president meant to be away from Headquarters - away from the records, away from the Executive Secretary, away from the meeting room, and away from many officers of the society. At its onset, having an out-of-town president was especially challenging. Combined with the trip to Wilmington for monthly meetings were many tasks. There were forms to sign, conversations to have with special committees, candidates to discuss, etc. etc. But, as Ginger reported to me, “You are correct about it being harder to do, being out-of-town. But the board and past presidents went out of their way to help me. Cissy Loughlin asked me to stay with her for meetings, and I also had board meetings away from Wilmington.”

Ginger was the president who had a vision for a North Carolina Society scarf to be a fundraiser for our three museum houses and the Museum Houses Trust Fund. She chose to work with New York design artist Marisol DeLuna. Marisol visited North Carolina, and the finished product reflects her impressions of the visit. On the scarf are pink and white Dogwood, Magnolia blossoms, a deep blue like in the U.S. flag, and the society colors displayed in blue and yellow fields. If you look more closely, you can see dentil molding in the decorative border, acorns, and a circular pattern adding movement to the design. *Many thanks to the Wake Committee, Ginger Finley, and Marisol DeLuna for a beauty!*





A great event that occurred on Ginger's watch was a trip/fundraiser for the NC Dames. She and Nancy Andrews, noted NC travel planner par excellence, combined forces for a sojourn to Chicago. "In September, Nancy Andrews led a group of thirty Dames and husbands on a fundraising trip to Chicago. I was fortunate enough to go along with them. The Illinois Dames went out of their way to show us the best of Chicago. We toured their museum house named The Clarke House, as well as their headquarters. We were graciously entertained at a private club. A special thanks to Barbara Linville, the president of the Illinois Society, for being most helpful to us during the trip." (Barbara Linville is also the sister of our own Carol Shepard of Durham.) *Ginger, 2011. Thanks Ginger and Nancy.*

**Fiscal factoid: The MHTF balance in 2011 was \$1,086,912.10 and the membership was 1,698.**

The years between Mary Eggleston's first day as President of the NSCDA-NC, and when she turned over the gavel to her successor, were full of evaluating and studying the current operation of the organization, launching several new initiatives, and streamlining many long-held organizational procedures. Her goals included improving communication among the Committees and the historic properties, inclusion of more Dames statewide in the various boards and committees, and transparency in financial and administrative matters.

The self-study committee originally launched in 2008 was re-invigorated with the direction of business consultant Bill Hinman. More than two dozen recommendations were made by this committee. Some highlights included recommendations to:

- Perform external reviews (legal and financial) to review the financial and accounting practices of NSCDA-NC
- Reaffirm NSCDA-NC's commitment to ownership, management and care of its historic properties
- Inspire the membership's sense of responsibility to provide ongoing financial, management, and promotional resources necessary to fulfill the preservation and educational missions for our properties.

Addressing NSCDA-NC's effectiveness and efficiency was of utmost importance at this time. One of the most important decisions in the Society's history—hiring an Executive Director—was made during Mary's presidency, with the enthusiastic support of the Board. Joy Allen was hired in August 2012, and was tasked with a range of goals extremely important to the future of NSCDA-NC, including:

- Manage and lead the historic properties owned or operated by NSCDA-NC.
- Provide logistical and operational support.
- Help secure financial support needed to sustain priorities and objectives.
- Seek appropriate publicity and promotional avenues for projects and programs
- Hire and supervise other staff positions, as authorized and budgeted by NSCDA-NC.

Mary also made sure that NSCDA-NC continued its move into the 21st Century by advocating the

online publication of the Pine Cone newsletter. A website was created for use by NSCDA-NC members, and for the public to learn more about the organization and its historic properties. In addition, a State Technology Chair was added to the list of state officers. Paying annual dues with a credit card online? Yes indeed!

The Burgwin Wright House and Gardens underwent many improvements, both physical and operational during Mary's terms. A vibrant gift shop was opened, the kitchen was upgraded for catering purposes, and brick walkways were installed in preparation for rentals of the garden for weddings and other events. The seven gardens became a focal point for many visitors and Dames alike.

Improvements in long-established Society procedures were implemented, including streamlining the admissions questionnaire, and changing the structure of the state screening committee. The NSCDA-NC Old Salem Internship was established, allowing a wonderful opportunity each summer for a student to gain firsthand (and paid) experience working in an historic setting.

Finally, during Mary's terms several new awards were created, including the Presidents Circle Award for members earning county committee level recognition, and the first ever Preservation Award for outstanding achievement by a county committee. (Of course, this award went to Mecklenburg for their revival of Rosedale). *Berta Hamilton, former Verifying Genealogist, former Pine Cone Editor (Thank you, Berta, for writing about my term. MSE)*



Sisters Jocelyn and Mary co-chair, Annual Mtg. '09



Betsy King

Betsy King took over in 2014 at a beautiful Annual Meeting event in Charlotte. Betsy had been a terrific board member. She was always willing to help, coupled with the intellect to carefully study the task at hand. She was a good worker, and she was ready to go!

Fast out of the gate, Betsy began with a return to the Legacy Pilot Program, presented that spring by the registrar Margaret Hamilton. This program was a newer version of the Millennium Legacy Program introduced in 2001. Like the previous program, this form of admissions created a lot of work for those involved, but it was so worth it for its quick entrance path for our legacies. After the program was announced, "I received 245 applications to review, to share with the state advisory committee, and then present to the Board for a vote during my two years as President. Whew!" *Betsy, reflecting on the process.*

The Computer Age that started with Cissy in 1998, continued to grow in 2015 with "Member Clicks". At her annual meeting, Betsy

announced that research was being done to start a new website. On this new site there would be “improved reporting and clarity in many areas including financial.” She also mentioned something new that she created: “The first email newsletter, The Pine Needle, was launched and well received. It was envisioned as a vehicle to get news out faster. The traditional printed Pine Cone newsletter would continue with expanded pages for our dynamic and active Society.” *Betsy 2015*

One of Betsy’s strengths that we all enjoyed was her well planned annual meetings. Here is Betsy’s account in the 2016-2017 Blue Book. “The Annual Meeting in Winston-Salem, chaired by Butter Birkas (Mrs. Emmie Wilson Birkas) and Sally Engram (Mrs. Jonathan Mark Engram) with the Forsyth Committee, was an exceptional layering of highly regarded speakers (Chip Calloway, landscape architect; Dean Norton, Mount Vernon director of Horticulture, and John Larson, V.P. Restoration at Old Salem) and interesting tours of Graylyn and Old Salem. The Ansel Adams: Eloquent Light exhibit and fabulous cocktail party at Reynolda House were also highlights of the theme “Restoration, Preservation and Celebration of the American Landscape.” An additional celebration took place during the business meeting as we recognized the first NC dame chosen for the National Women of vision exhibit – the Honorable Elizabeth Dole.” It was a spectacular event! But, so was the Downton Abbey meeting in Asheville! *Thanks Betsy.*

**Fiscal Factoid: In 2017, the MHTF balance, now called the Museum Houses Endowment Fund, was \$1,608,930. The membership was at 1,706 Dames.**

When Margaret Hamilton began her presidency in 2016, she began in her typically well-organized fashion.

“To start my term as President, I invited the Board to come to Wilmington for a retreat. We had 100% Board participation and the 24 hours gave everyone a chance to get to know one another and bond into a very operative group. We began with lunch and orientation on board expectations in the garden of the Burgwin Wright House. In the evening, Elizabeth Donald hosted a lovely dinner with cocktails on the porch of her bayside home at Wrightsville Beach. It was a lively group from around NC including: Sara Larkin, Lawson Anderson, Paula Stewart, Boo Gooch, Barbara Lawther, Jean Boyles, Martha Gallop, Alice Glover, Marie Mickey, Elizabeth Finch, Lynda Moore, Agnes Weisiger, Cissy Grantham, Dencie Lamdin, Alice Robbins, Meredith Clifton and Carol Shepard.

Southern hospitality was offered to all members for those desiring overnight accommodations at the homes of local Dames/Board Members: Cynthia Boylan, Elizabeth Donald, Margaret Hamilton, and Mary Gornto. The following day, we held a full board meeting at the Surf Club which enabled me to set goals and agendas for the entire year based on issues and concerns that had surfaced during our 2 days of camaraderie. It was wonderful to work with such knowledgeable, committed, interesting and delightfully FUN ladies. Committees were appointed to revise our bylaws, set fundraising goals, to oversee communications and to standardize nominating procedures. A very productive beginning!” *Margaret Hamilton, 2016-2018*

What was planned in Margaret’s board retreat immediately began in earnest! Margaret asked Sara

Larkin, former parliamentarian, to chair the newly formed Bylaw Revision Committee. It took a year of meetings, a lot of deep thought, and a clear use of the English language to complete. Margaret reported in the blue book: “Many dedicated eyes and hands were instrumental in completing a revision of the NC Bylaws under the able leadership of Sara Larkin. The new Bylaws were voted upon by the NSCDA-NC board in October of 2017. They are now available on the website along with standing rules which provide additional guidance for local committees. Our sincere appreciation is extended to all who worked to accomplish this goal.” *Margaret, 2018*



Margaret with Boyd Harris

In Margaret’s first year, two significant boons to the society occurred. The first was a generous and bittersweet gift to Headquarters to renovate the second floor of the kitchen building. This beautiful memorial came from the daughters of Lib Nimocks, a well-known Dame from Fayetteville, whose loyalty to the Society earned her a place on the Roll of Honor. At the dedication of the room that would become the society archives, a tearful Mary Flagg Haugh spoke of her mother to a crowd of Dames including Lib’s other daughters, Boo Gooch and Lucy Harley. It was a wonderful day for the society, and a testament to the example set by Elizabeth Holt Burns Nimocks, not just for her daughters, but for all of us.

Another exciting memorial came from the daughter of Mary Bason Broadfoot. Mary had been the Society president from 1979-1984. Her daughter Mary Broadfoot Ivie of Eden, NC donated money to establish an internship in her memory. This sweet gift paid off in spades as our first intern, Allayna Dail, later became the executive secretary! Win-Win!

“In 2017 the Board of Managers began a review of our ownership of Haywood Hall through the estate of Mary Fowles Stearns. Local attorney Frank Gibson recommended that we find an estate lawyer in Raleigh. Margaret Hamilton, Joy Allen, Sara Larkin, and Fairley Cook met with a Raleigh attorney Maria Lynch, who clarified numerous questions that had arisen from the Board about the nature of the will and the role of the NSCDA-NC. The resulting outcome was reported to the NSCDA-NC Board in September 2017 at which time the Board voted to recommit our stewardship to the ongoing support of Haywood Hall. Fairley Cook as Chair of Haywood Hall began to reenergize the HH Board and began new restoration projects.” *MMMH 2017*

When Margaret’s accomplished term was done she continued to give of her time to chair the Strategic Planning Committee, to remain instrumental in the 125th anniversary, and to carry the banner for further increasing the Museum Houses Endowment Fund. *Thanks Margaret.*

**Fiscal factoid: In 2018, the MHEF balance was \$1,676,484.98 and the membership was 1,777.**





Sara Larkin

When Sara Larkin took the gavel from Margaret Hamilton at the Surf Club at Wrightsville Beach in 2018, she was no stranger to the Board. Sara had been Parliamentarian during Betsy King's presidency and reworked the Bylaws with Margaret Hamilton during her term. To say the least, she brought some valuable experience to the table!

Like Mary Taylor in 1994, Sara was thrilled to be the President while the Anniversary Celebrations unfolded. "As the newly elected President in April, 2018, I was excited that my term would coincide with the NC Society's 125th Anniversary. I knew it would be a special year for the NC Dames, and it has far exceeded my expectations." Sara, 2019

Following is a list of the events for 2019 that Sara was very excited to watch unfold:

3/20/19: Historic Hope Plantation, Windsor NC. Speaker – Susie Hamilton, NC Sec. of Cultural and Natural Resources; luncheon followed

4/25 - 4/26/19: NSCDA-NC Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC. Cocktails at NC Museum of Art, Meeting at the Carolina Country Club, Speaker – Dr. George McDaniel of Drayton Hall, SC

5/11/19: "A Pilgrimage to St.Philips", Old Brunswick, NC. Speaker – The Rt. Rev. Henry Parsley, musical service, luncheon on the grounds followed

7/6-/9: Blowing Rock Country Club, Blowing Rock, NC Speaker – Harriet Hill, author of Escaping Vietnam with H'Yoanh Ksor Buonya, refugee and subject of the book, dinner followed

9/10/19: NC Governor's Mansion Raleigh, NC. Speaker – John Penn, historic interpreter, luncheon followed

10/5/19: Historic Rosedale, Charlotte, NC. Family barbeque with music, children's activities and tours

In the fall of 2018 the board inaugurated "a special fundraising campaign for the Museum House Endowment Fund with the goal of raising \$125,000 or more. If successful, the campaign will grow the endowment to \$2 million, greatly increasing our capacity to support our museum houses now and in the future." By December 2019 Sara's hope is that the final \$23,000 will be donated and the goal will be met. Have YOU donated yet?

In that same time period, Hurricane Florence hit Eastern North Carolina wreaking havoc on the terrain with days of deluge on an already rain soaked earth. The NC Dames



Sara accepts a commendation from National President Anna Duff

responded as they did when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. They gave. Thanks to Carol Shepard's leadership, \$11,277.00 was quickly raised to disperse to needy areas. Thanks Carol.

In a Meeting of the East in Tarboro, NC a beloved member of the Board was awarded the President's Circle Award for outstanding service to the Society. Lynda Moore - piano player, retired teacher, ball of fire - was the Historical Activities Chairman who thought up the Hamilton Raffle to raise money for historical activities. The ticket sales raised \$14,050. Her fundraising idea was so successful that after paying the MHEF, HH, JLMH, and BWH, she was able to offer grants to county committees. If you check the photos from the Executive Mansion celebration you will see "William Penn" dressed in a costume made possible through money made on the Hamilton raffle. Congrats Lynda and thanks for all your work.

There once was a Dame named Lynda  
Whose enthusiasm had no contendah  
As historical activities chair  
She performed with great flare  
Therefore, we hereby commend huh.

*by Joy Allen*



Lynda Bell Moore



Barbara Martin Lawther  
President's Circle Award, 2017  
Claiborne descendant  
Former registrar  
Enthusiastic worker  
Active Rowan member

The Huntleys – Dames since birth!  
Sarah Huntley Kemm  
Presidents Circle Award, 2013  
State Nominating Chair  
Active Guilford Member



Nancy Hinton Andrews  
Wake Committee Chair  
JLMH Board  
Haywood Hall  
Committee  
Dames trip coordinator  
Co-chaired Executive  
Mansion event



*Since a picture is worth a thousand words...*

## Windsor in March



Anne Boone Urquhart,  
(above, far right) served  
as the chair of the  
statewide 125th  
Anniversary  
celebrations



Raleigh in April  
125th Annual Meeting  
Carolina Country Club





## Old Brunswick in May



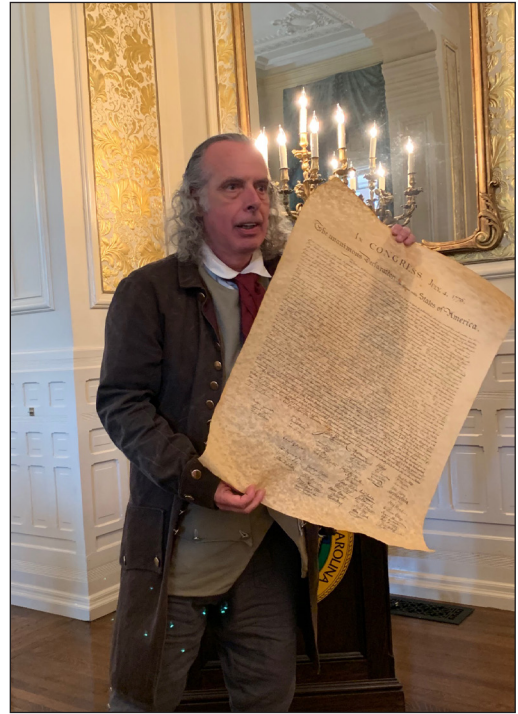


## Blowing Rock in August – Blowing Rock Country Club





## Raleigh in September - Executive Mansion





## Charlotte in October - Rosedale Plantation





## The Houses

*"Although our houses are the pride and joy of our state society, their preservation is undoubtedly the most difficult task that we perform."* Mary Koonce, State President, 1996-1998

Amen! to that comment made by Mary Swanson (Koonce) at the 103rd Annual Meeting at the Greensboro Country Club! Yes, our houses are our pride and joy, and much, much more. They are our *raison d'être*, our gift to the State of North Carolina and the nation, our impetus for building community, our source for Colonial education, our meccas to revisit, but also, our challenge for staying current in a quickly changing world. For those who have been intimately involved with the upkeep of these 200 plus years old structures, it is amazing and confounding just how much attention the old girls need. Besides, these gals are high maintenance, needing special tools, special materials, special know-how, and a wealth of knowledge to keep them up to authentic museum standards. But, like a favorite great aunt, whatever is needed, it is our privilege to bestow.

To read the years 1994-2019 as chronicled in our blue books is to marvel at the litany of repairs required for each house and the counterbalance of fundraisers needed to cover the costs. Rather than list the details of the numerous labors involved in maintenance, I have chosen to list the names of the chairmen of each house museum for this 25 year expanse. These diligent members, and their worker bees, deserve not just a mention but also tremendous thanks for bearing the burden of standing guard. (Photos of fundraisers will be scattered throughout the text.)

## Our 2019 Museum House Chairmen



Ellen Jackson – JLMH



Mary Frere Gornto – BWH



Fairley Bell Cook - HH

*“Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;  
indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*  
Margaret Mead

## The Houses and the NSCDA-NC

Our North Carolina Society has bragging rights on four separate unique properties. How did we get those properties? Let’s take a look.

- In 1927 the Wake Committee bought the Joel Lane House for \$5000. This historically significant property managed for nearly 50 years. In 1968, with the help of a grant from the General Assembly and support from the NSCDA-NC, JLMH began an eight year restoration project. In 1972, in the midst of the extensive project, the Wake Committee saw the need to transfer the deed to the state society. Joel Lane pays a minimal amount to the state for the lease of the property. When finished in 1976, the Wake Committee proudly opened this charming museum house to the public.
- In 1936 the Forsyth Committee bought the Fourth House for \$500. They presented the deed to the state board; a legal entity able to own a house. By 1966, twenty three Old Salem buildings had been restored. To assure that the Fourth House looked just like the other houses in the village, Old Salem asked for control of the Fourth House. The Forsyth Committee agreed. They entered into a long term lease with Old Salem, Inc. Since then, a minimal amount is paid yearly by Old Salem to the Forsyth Committee.
- In 1937, the NSCDA-NC borrowed money from a local Savings and Loan to purchase the Burgwin-Wright House for their headquarters. In 1948, the NSCDA-NC paid off the loan on the BWH, and a full restoration project began. The BWH has never had its own 501c3 (non-profit status). It is legally part of the NSCDA-NC in its status as headquarters.
- In 1977, Mary Stearns bequeathed Haywood Hall to the NSCDA-NC. (This gift will be further chronicled in the section on Haywood Hall.

### ARTICLE II OF THE CONSTITUTION

The objectives 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; and 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 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.





## The Fourth House, 1768

A plaque on the oldest house in Salem reads:

Restoration of the house belonging to the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of North Carolina was made possible in 1966 through the generosity of three members of its Forsyth Committee: Mrs. P. Huber Hanes, Mrs. Robert M. Hanes, Mrs. S. Clay Williams

**Magnificent museum moment:** In 1936, the Forsyth Committee of the North Carolina Society bought the Fourth House for \$500 sponsored by the three ladies mentioned on the plaque - Mrs. P.H. Hanes, Mrs. R. Hanes, Mrs. C. Williams. At that time, the country was still climbing out of the depression and the remains of Old Salem were in disrepair. Little did they know that their purchase would launch the development of Old Salem Historic District, a National Historic Landmark.



The following paragraphs were written by Rosalie Hanes Horton Rice, mother of Evelyn Horton, grandmother of Rosalie Horton, Dames of Winston-Salem, NC.

“Last year the National Park Service designated the entire restored area of Old Salem as a Registered National Historic Landmark—an honor enjoyed by relatively few historic districts in the country.

“Now that Old Salem is attracting such honors and widespread attention, it is especially gratifying to the members of the North Carolina Society of the Colonial Dames of America to be given credit for the first piece of restoration work in Salem.” *Mrs. Rice in 1967*

What started with the Forsyth Committee in 1936 snowballed into a thriving historic district. By 1966, Old Salem was declared a National Historic Landmark. This list of nationally important historic properties is named The National Register of Historic Places, a branch of the National Park Service. The list includes buildings, sites, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. It was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The following text is a copy of the application submitted to the National Register of Historic Places. Of particular interest are the proper German names of the architectural features. Also, all of the owners are listed including the Colonial Dames.

OLD SALEM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places

438 Lot 50 Fourth House, 1768, 1966 Contributing Building



The oldest surviving building in Salem, the Fourth House was constructed as a family house by the Congregational Diacony in 1768 and reflected the Germanic traditions of the Moravians in its materials, form and plan. An “outside” mason was considered for work on the cellar as a trial; heretofore, construction was by Brethren from Bethesda and those residing in Salem. It was one of six *fachwerk* houses along the west side of Main Street; it is the only original one remaining and three others have been reconstructed.

The one story, *fachwerk*, or half-timber frame house with brick infill has a large central brick chimney with corbelled cap and stucco band, steep clay tile side gable roof with a kick at the eave, an asymmetrical three bay façade and a stone foundation. The house sits against the sidewalk and has a picket fence. This one-story three room *flurkuchenhaus* has a full cellar below street grade. The three-bay façade has two six-over-six sash and a six panel door. Other elevations have six-over-six sash windows as well. In each upper gable end is a three-over-six sash window at the second floor/attic level, with a small vent in the peak above.

Charles Holder, a saddler, was the first occupant of the Fourth House. He and his family leased the house and lived there until his death in 1808. At some point the building was weatherboarded. During Holder’s residency, a garden was located on the lot.



Subsequent occupants were approved to construct a cow shed and a bake oven in the garden (1810-1811). The house was purchased from the Diacony in 1844 by Henry Ruede for \$500.



During Lewis Porter's residency in 1889-90, the trolley came to Salem causing the street elevation to be altered. Many buildings were affected by this grade change. The Fourth House was moved back away from the street and raised several feet. The Sanborn Insurance maps documented the sequence of events from 1885 through 1917. The 1885 map showed the Fourth House directly on the sidewalk, with a smaller dwelling on lot 50 just to the north of the Fourth House, and two "sheds" to the rear of the house. An unidentified building possibly a stable, is shown on Salt Street at the rear of the lot. In the period between the 1885 and 1890 Sanborn Insurance maps, the Fourth House moved several feet west of the sidewalk, as a result of the 1889-1890 trolley. The small building on the north edge of Lot 50 had become a cobbler's shop. A small two-story dwelling was at the rear of Lot 50 facing Salt Street. The 1895 Sanborn map showed a continuation of this pattern, as did 1900 and 1907, with the exception that the shop had joined to the Fourth House and an outbuilding had disappeared.

The 1912 Sanborn showed substantial change. The Fourth House had been relocated on the lot again, moved to the northwest, and a new building constructed on the southeast corner of the lot. The new building contained a barber shop. The

small dwelling on Salt Street continued in its location. This pattern carried into 1917, with the exception that the original outbuildings in the center of the lot had disappeared and a new small outbuilding had been constructed. By the early twentieth century, the house had stylistic updates with a large front porch, double front doors, additional windows, center bay wall dormer, etc. It was in the state in 1936 "with no modern conveniences" that the Forsyth County Committee of the Society of Colonial Dames purchased the building, altered and partially restored it and "rented the house to cultured tenants."

In 1966 Old Salem, Inc. entered into a lease agreement with the Colonial Dames for the Fourth House. It was moved back to its original position against the sidewalk and restored to a 1768 period of interpretation. The timbers and much of the brick infill are original. The Colonial Dames inspect the property on a regular basis, which is a residential rental property.

## Occupants/Owners:

Charles Holder, 1772-1808, saddler  
Charles Gottlieb Clauder, 1810-1843, assistant warden  
Gottlieb Byhan, 1841-1844, retired minister  
Henry Ruede, 1844-1855  
Edward Belo, 1855  
Orren Mitchell, 1858-  
William Detmar, 1876  
Lewis Porter, 1889  
G.F. and Stella Teague, - 1936  
Colonial Dames, 1936-present

*(This official NRHP registration information was shared by the Director of Interpreted Environments & Restorations in Old Salem, Robbie King.)*

Although the NSCDA-NC retains the ownership of the Fourth House, the care, maintenance, and rental of it have been given over to Old Salem. For many, many years the property kept a low profile in this historic community. It was quietly rented and not opened to the public. Then in March of 2017 something amazing happened! The new president of Old Salem, Frank Vagnone, chose to make our Fourth House his residence.

Here are some lines borrowed from the Winston-Salem Journal: "From the outside, the Fourth House in Old Salem looks like something plucked from another time. Inside, though, the house is an eclectic mix of old and new." "Everything about this place is a mixture of history and present day," said Vagnone, who recently assumed his post as president. "I want to bring history to life and impress upon people that these are real live places, not just museums." "Built in 1768, the home is the oldest building in Old Salem and one of the oldest in North Carolina." *The Winston Salem Journal, March 7, 2017*

It seems that this article in the Journal titled "Old Salem President Moves into 18th Century Fourth House" has sparked interest in the Fourth House. Joy Allen, our executive director, has been in communication with Robbie King, the Director of Interpreted Environments and Restorations at Old Salem. Here is his very positive report on the Fourth House in 2019.

"We are working to highlight the importance of the Fourth House to the history of Salem...the property is now included on our map and we have an increasing number of visitors seeking out the house. This is a point of great pride for us, as the house has previously been a very quiet component of the Salem experience. We hope you agree that the Fourth House should be better highlighted for its original condition and its relevance to the Old Salem story." *Robbie King, Director Interpreted Environments & Restorations*

**Museum milestone: In 2018, The Fourth House turned 250 years old!!**



## Other images of Old Salem

The Forsyth Committee started a movement in 1936 when they bought the indestructable Fourth House. They were the first to purchase property in what had become a delapidated section of Winston-Salem. By 1966, Old Salem, the entire village, was declared a National Historic Landmark!

*Thank you Forsyth!*



Old Salem

## Joel Lane Museum House, 1769

In 1927, the leaders of the Wake County Committee of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America saw an opportunity to save an artifact important to our state's history—the home of Joel Lane, pioneer, patriot, justice, and lawmaker. The house had been vacant for several years and was in danger of demolition by neglect. The ladies rallied and took out a mortgage so they could buy and renovate the building to use it as a meeting place. A minority report filed at the time suggested that this was much too large an undertaking for such a small group of women, but the majority prevailed, and the Wake Committee purchased the house. Their careful stewardship over the ensuing years has allowed many visitors to experience life in the 18th century back country of North Carolina.



Photograph courtesy of JLMH

The majority prevailed, and the Wake Committee purchased the house. Their careful stewardship over the ensuing years has allowed many visitors to experience life in the 18th century back country of North Carolina.

Joel Lane (c. 1739-1795) was one of the earliest settlers in Johnston (later Wake) County. He is best known for having sold to the State of NC in 1792 1,000 acres of land to the east of his house for the newly created capital city. In 1770, as a state legislator, he introduced the bill to create Wake County which passed in 1771. After his first wife, Martha Hinton, died in 1771, he married her younger sister, Mary Hinton. Martha presented him with 3 children, and Mary gave birth to 9. The house passed out of the Lane family in about 1831 when Dorothy Lane Gilchrist and her husband sold the property.

In 1972, three ladies undertook a complete restoration of the house to modern standards: Cecelia Winslow, Sis Cheshire, and Anne Townsend. The Wake County Committee deeded the house to the NSCDA in NC. A non-profit entity separate from the Colonial Dames was created as a 501(c)3 to facilitate fundraising, grants, and donations. What this group accomplished was truly remarkable and has formed the basis of what is an outstanding collection of 18th century furnishings and encompasses four buildings that make up the campus today. This dazzling historic site is a quiet oasis in the midst of the bustling city where one may spend a peaceful hour in the gardens or take a docent-guided tour and learn about the state's history.

Between 1994 and 2019, the period of this sketch, much happened at the little house not only in the physical plant, but also in terms of administration, personnel, volunteers, finances, and recognition



of its achievements.

The total annual budget at \$30,000 at the beginning of this time frame necessitated heavy use of volunteers for giving tours. In 1990, regular open hours were instituted so that the public could have a reasonable chance to plan a visit.

In 1994, Amy Thullen was the first President of JLMH, Inc. to decide to bring the operations into the modern age. A web site was set up, and accreditation by the NSCDA sought and received. The first paid docents were engaged in 1998, though repairs and maintenance to the property continued to use most of the annual budget. All work is and was done under the supervision of the State Historic Preservation Office to ensure the appropriateness of any repairs. In 1996, a friends group, the Joel Lane Historical Society, was established under the leadership of Chip Dodd in order to both bolster fundraising and increase community involvement in the operation of the Museum. A printed publication, The Parchment Press was founded as an organ to disseminate news about the facility to its patrons and friends. In 1998, the Year-End Appeal, a fundraising letter sent to the entire database, was instituted in order to provide additional funding to support the staff and maintenance of the buildings.



A TERRIFIC TRIO: Clare, Margaret, and Belle attend the Spring Cocktail Fundraiser

In 2000, the first history professional, LeRae Umfleet, was hired in order to bring the level of historical information provided in the tours to meet the standards of best practices in the museum house industry. The Antiques Appraisal Fair had to turn would-be patrons away. LeRae's contacts led to expansion of the two annual open houses to include well-trained re-enactors as volunteers. Lighting was added to the garden. The idea of converting the dependency, at the time a rental apartment, to offices and a museum store, was beginning to be explored. Dr. Jerry Cross was commissioned to write a book on Joel Lane. His research added greatly to knowledge of Col. Lane and his life.

Throughout the period, the Wake County Committee of the NSCDA in NC continued its strong financial and volunteer support of the property. An annual "Spring Cocktail Party" fundraiser begun in 1984 continued to provide almost 1/3 of the operating budget each year.

By 2002, the physical plant, especially the dependency nicknamed the "kitchen," needed major repairs. The "kitchen," a c. 1790 middle-class home moved to the site in 1979, needed a new roof, and a layer of plywood was installed over the floor in the upper story to support the weak floor boards. Garden programs were instituted.

In 2006, a second museum professional, Chuck Jacobs, was hired as curator, and in 2008, Belle Long, a Dame with a strong business background, was hired as Director to get the institution on a firm financial footing and create needed business systems. The first lectures were hosted under Chuck's tutelage, and Belle greatly expanded the breadth and frequency of these popular events. A \$60,000

paint job was undertaken to bring the buildings up to industry standards of care.

During Belle's tenure, with assistance from numerous volunteers and professionals who love the place, many upgrades to the property were completed: brick sidewalks were added on the St. Mary's Street side of the property, the grassy squares in the courtyard were filled in with pavers to facilitate events in the garden, the storage shed was built so that supplies would not have to be toted up the dangerously narrow steps in the "kitchen" building, a new public restroom was installed on the rear of the Visitors Center, and new fixtures were installed in the office and store areas of the Visitors Center. The brick pavers in the courtyard were made available for inscription by donors as another fundraiser.



Photograph courtesy of JLMH

One particular volunteer who later became a member is Claudia Brown whose expertise in her career added greatly to the JLMH Board. Here she is in her own words. "I was familiar with the JLMH because Wake County was in my assigned territory of responsibility at the HPO (Historic Preservation Office), but I knew little about its administration and was pleasantly surprised to learn that board members did not have to belong to the NSCDA-NC. I served on the Education Committee until 2002 and was asked to return to the board in 2004 as Buildings Committee chair, a position I held until 2015. After the Wake Committee's bylaws were amended to allow members of the JLMH board who are not NSCDA-NC Wake Committee members to serve on the JLMH board's executive committee, I became vice president for two years and then president for three terms, from 2014 to 2017."



Claudia and Gordon Brown

Programs became an integral part of the educational mission of the museum as well as important sources of money to fund operations. The two free Open Houses (Independence Day and Christmas) continued to be offered each year, lectures most months, and other events on a less frequent basis. Annual lectures in the winter by Eliot Engel proved to be a lucrative undertaking. Camp Flintlock continued a wonderful partnership with JLMH. Each summer, the camp brought between 20 and 30 elementary-aged children to a week-long day camp set in the 18th century on the JLMH grounds. The

highlight for the campers was a tour of the JLMH. In addition, the Director traveled across the state taking the Joel Lane story and many items from the museum store to NSCDA Committee meetings as well as to other civic and historical groups.

In 2014, The State Society funded a dendrochronology study of the JLMH which proved that the trees used to build it were felled in the spring of 1769. That date fit perfectly with Jerry Cross's research estimating the date of construction as 1770.

This period also saw several awards being given to the JLMH for excellence in the museum field:

- \* 2014 Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit from Preservation North Carolina for "extensive educational and outreach work as well as the recent restoration of the house, kitchen and visitor center. The Carraway Awards are presented each year to people and organizations demonstrating genuine commitment through extraordinary leadership, research, philanthropy, promotion and/or personal participation in historic preservation."
- 2012 Anthemion Award from Capital Area Preservation for 40 years of stewardship by the JLMH Board of Directors for outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in historic preservation
- 2010 Metro Bravo Award for Best Historic Site—Honorable Mention
- 2009 Metro Bravo Award for Best Historic Site—Honorable Mention
- 2005 Joel Lane inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame
- 2001 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Community Appearance for the gardens

In 2016, Belle retired. She said of her time at the JLMH, "It was the most rewarding period of my professional life—to care for such wonderful buildings that are irreplaceable not only physically, but in terms of their ability to transport visitors back in time so they can understand what life on the frontier of North Carolina was like in the 1760s and 1770s." Her replacement was lured away by a larger salary with full benefits, but Elena Hubbard stepped into the breach. Elena has been hired as full-time Director and is continuing many of the existing successful programs and instituting new ones. She applied for and won a scholarship to a program in Virginia where she spent three weeks in the summer of 2018 studying historic preservation.

The future will continue to bring challenges to this little house and to the people who love caring for it. In 2019, JLMH is again facing astronomical bills for a new paint job. This time, it will be necessary to clean the old paint entirely off the three historic buildings and start over in hopes that the new paint will actually stick to the wood. The Board and staff are working very hard to ensure that JLMH can continue to chart a course of excellence in historical research, interpretation, and preservation.

*Isabella Long, former curator and director*

*Thanks Belle for your well written history and your loyalty to the Joel Lane House.*



## Headquarters – The Burgwin-Wright House, 1770

John Burgwin was the second son of John Burgwin, Sr. and by English law did not inherit his father's estate in South Wales, England. He came to America to find his fortune, and being a "hail fellow, well met" it did not take long. He was working for a merchant company out of Charleston when he moved to the Cape Fear River area where he met Margaret Haynes of Castle Haynes. They married in 1753. After building their beautiful Georgian town house in 1770, John's good fortune began to change. Tragically, Margaret died that very year. A few years later, he infuriated Governor Josiah Martin for whom he was clerk of council. To top that, he angered the Wilmington Committee of Safety by not supplying gunpowder as requested by the colonists. In 1775, as revolution stirred, Burgwin fell while playing with his three sons and severely broke his leg. On the advice of his doctor, he left for England for medical treatment with no return plan. His property in America was confiscated by the State while he was recovering.



In 1782, his fortune took a positive turn as he married Elizabeth Bush of Bristol, England. After the Treaty of Paris in 1783, he was able to reclaim his Wilmington town house. By 1784, as revolution waned, John, Elizabeth, and, by then, their two children traveled to Wilmington to live at Third and Market. He died in 1803 at the Hermitage in Castle Haynes, an estate inherited from his first wife's family.

The Burgwin-Wright House was destined to have a new chapter. As our museum director writes: "Although he was a young man of 31, Joshua Grainger Wright purchased the house at 224 Market Street from John Burgwin in 1799, and lived in the home with his wife Susan Bradley Wright and their seven children. Upon his death, Joshua Grainger Wright's eleven-year old son, Thomas Henry Wright, inherited the Burgwin-Wright House. He is the only person to have resided in the home his entire life making him the longest occupant of the house."

"After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1820, Dr. Thomas Henry Wright received his doctorate in medicine from Columbia University. He returned to Wilmington in 1823 to marry Mary Allan. He stopped practicing medicine in 1847 when he was named one of the first directors of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. In addition, from 1842 until his death in 1861, Thomas served as President of the Bank of Cape Fear. Dr. Wright died on September 21, 1861, four months after the outbreak of the Civil War. He was survived by his children Adam, Joshua, James, Allan, Mary, Susan, and Caroline." *Christine Lamberton, BWH museum director, 2013-today*



Christine Lamberton



(For those of you who are wondering, yes, Wrightsville Beach, Wrightsville Sound, and Wrightsville Avenue are named for this family of Wrights.)

In the heart of Historic Downtown Wilmington, the Burgwin-Wright House is an oasis in the midst of a bustling business district. Visitors are amazed at the beauty of the gardens, charmed by the quality of the tour, and delighted by the broad piazzas of this Georgian style townhouse. Since 1937, this property has been the ward of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in The State of North Carolina.

Acquiring the property at Third and Market was challenging. The fact that it was saved at all is entirely due to the determination of the State Society in the 1930s. Being a fairly new society, the North Carolina Dames longed for a headquarters that they could call home and that would give them status among the older state societies.

Here are the words of President Frances Lathan Harriss at her 1935 annual meeting. *“For many years my mind and heart have been centered on saving Cornwallis Headquarters. In the early fall I made a direct appeal to the government and succeeded in attracting attention to the extent of causing a very extensive survey of the historic property made by the Department of the Interior.”* Before she made an appeal to the Department for monetary assistance, Frances decided to include the entire state in the plan. To her credit she had a petition signed by her board and representatives from each of the county committees. The news from Washington was not what she had hoped because no grant was given, however, it was promising. The report found that Cornwallis Headquarters was a “place of interest”!

To understand the response from the Department of the Interior is to return to the early 1930s. The United States was climbing out of the Great Depression with the nation’s unemployment level at 16.9%. By 1936, as FDR regained his presidency he proclaimed “We have nothing to fear, but fear itself.” However, the world was at war. The center of the fighting was in Germany; Hitler, Mussolini, and the country of Japan had formed an alliance. It was an uneasy period, and money was scarce.

**The Ladies, God Bless Them** read the headline of a 1937 Star News article “Local members of the NSCDA-NC were distressed upon learning that a New York businessman planned to purchase the house, dismantle it, and reconstruct it in Connecticut, conveying the land to Standard Oil for a gas station.” At Third and Market? That was NOT going to happen!

Lillian Bellamy Boney shared the tale of a group of our Wilmington Dames leading the charge to save the house using the preferred method of the ladies of their time. They asked their husbands, “Who of your friends will loan us money to save the Cornwallis House?” It worked!

And that was that. The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of North Carolina assumed a loan with a Wilmington bank and became proud holders of a mortgage on property at 224 Market Street. As Mrs. J. Walter Williamson said as she addressed a meeting of the North Carolina Society: “We have before us as you know our greatest undertaking of all time in our Society, the restoration of our Colonial Headquarters House. The first flight has been successfully accomplished. May the successive stages find us working as hard as before, and also quietly, earnestly and loyally for our great aims, and may our strengths increase with our purpose in making this historic shrine a thing

of beauty and usefulness in our state.” *Emma Williamson, 1937*

Now, here we are in 2019, celebrating our 125th year. We are working hard - quietly, earnestly, and loyally - toward our great aims. The Society of the 1930s would not just be pleased, they would be amazed!

## **The Colonial Kitchen Restoration Project - BWH**

In 1994 President Mary Taylor received a donation from Louis Bacon in memory of his mother, Nannie Moore Bacon. That money was earmarked for the restoration of the Colonial Kitchen House. With that gift, a long range plan of the board was set in motion. That plan was to hold Colonial cooking demonstrations in the historic kitchen behind the Burgwin-Wright House. Not only would the docents be able to teach about Colonial life in the house, but they would also be able to teach about Colonial cooking in the kitchen. It would provide another way to grow the mission of education and would be a drawing card to attract a variety of guests to the house. This project proved to be a significant undertaking!

By 1995, the Restoration Committee, chaired by Cissy Loughlin and Evelyn Horton, had much to report to the 1995 Annual Meeting. From hours of research and consultation, here is Cissy in her own words:

“Prior to 1770, the Old Town Jail, and a separate structure housing the Jail’s kitchen, stood on this site. John Burgwin built his house on the massive stone foundation of the abandoned Town Jail, and kept the kitchen building intact. The outside kitchen building, located behind the house, is much older than the main house, since it served as the kitchen for the Old Town Jail.



Our plans to include open-hearth cooking demonstrations have been our main focus for this year. This interesting restoration will broaden our interpretation of Colonial life during this period of history.

Under the supervision of our Restoration Consultant John Bivins, we began the initial steps to prepare the building for open-hearth cooking. A smoke test was performed to determine the condition

and safety of the chimney. It was necessary to remove a small non-usable oven from the fireplace. Instead, an antique wrought-iron swinging crane has been installed to hold cooking utensils at the proper position when preparing food. In addition to refurbishing the fireplace, the windows in the building will be replaced with reproduction sashes made from antique heart pine with glass panes of the period.”

After these outside renovations are complete, the committee plans to use Nancy Carter Crump of Petersburg, Virginia. Nancy is an expert in open-hearth cooking and will advise the group on how best to exhibit a working kitchen of this period. “Presenting this interesting part of Colonial life will be a most informative educational experience and a major historical resource for school groups, local historians, and visitors to our city of Wilmington.” Cissy, *1995 Annual Meeting, Raleigh*

A key component of any restoration project is the money available to continue the work. At the Annual Meeting in 1996, Cissy Loughlin, Restoration Committee Chair, reminds attending Dames of the solicitation drive in the Pine Cone newsletter. The first phase of the kitchen project had been completed on the exterior of the Colonial kitchen building. The next phase was contingent on sufficient funding.

Cissy explains phase two to the audience: “Much research has been done to determine what foods were most likely served to the Burgwin and Wright families during this early period of our history. We have retained the services of Mrs. Shirley Willis, Culinary Historian of Tryon Palace in New Bern, to instruct and supervise the presentation of our open hearth cooking demonstrations. During her initial meetings, she advised what additional cooking tools were needed and began instruction on methods of preparing foods.”

By the time of the Annual Meeting in 1997, Mary Swanson (Koonce) was president, and Cissy remained as the ever faithful Restoration Chairman. Again, there was much to report on this ongoing project at Headquarters. “Under the supervision of Ms. Shirley Willis, Culinary Historian at Tryon Palace, we are delighted to report that we have begun conducting open-hearth cooking. Jenny Ashlock, an expert in this field, conducted three demonstrations this year, and we hope to schedule her demonstrations on a regular basis. These presentations illustrate what foods were served and how they were prepared during the 18th Century. We are very pleased to be able to include this educational tool as part of this interpretive program.”

As mentioned, a visit from Nancy Crump of Petersburg in 1993 for the purpose of evaluating the Colonial kitchen at Headquarters proved very helpful. One of Nancy’s suggestions was that “an herb garden be planted next to the kitchen. Research is being done by the garden committee to add an herb garden which will expand on the cooking interpretation.” Cissy, *1997*

By 1998, the kitchen project was humming along. “There is good news from the Colonial kitchen project. It is the scene of much activity, as open-hearth cooking expert, Jenny Ashlock, is now conducting open-hearth cooking demonstrations on a regular basis. ... Many period pieces have been added to the Colonial kitchen to make it more authentic.” Cissy continues by reminding the audience of the initial gift that started the kitchen renovation back in 1994 given by Louis Bacon, who would become the new owner of Orton Plantation in 2010.



By 1999, the kitchen project report was submitted by new chairmen Mary Taylor and Georgia Joyner describing new acquisitions for the kitchen house. These were “a pewter charger, ca. 1703, an arrow-back chair, a nest of baskets, a three mold kettle with spout and cover, ca. 1700, and barl bowl. Open hearth cooking demonstrations take place once a month and are a marvelous educational tool for adult visitors as well as school children.”

The project stayed on an even keel in 2000 continuing to interpret the lives of the Burgwins and Wrights in a multi-sensory fashion. However, in 2001, Martha Best Lawson, the BWH Chairman, reported to the Annual Meeting, “A popular attraction at the Burgwin-Wright House has been the open-hearth cooking demonstrations. We have suspended this feature until necessary repairs to the chimney are completed.”

Unfortunately, by order of the Wilmington Fire Department, the chimney was not safe for cooking. This chapter in the life of a house museum is a prime example of the research, expertise, care, and decision making that is a necessary part of maintaining a first class museum. Hats off to each Dame and expert who gave nearly a decade of time to this worthwhile goal!



Martha Best and Ferd



In 2005, the Burgwin-Wright House had the honor of being featured in “The Magazine Antiques”. The issue was entirely on Colonial Dames properties across the country. Two of our antique pieces were chosen for the magazine; Macao: The Praya Grande from the North, Chinese export painting 1820-1840, and Side Chair, Roanoke River basin, NC 1760-1770.

The Roanoke River basin stretches from the lower middle Virginia towns of Roanoke, Danville, and South Boston to the small NC towns of Roanoke Rapids, Windsor and Plymouth in Eastern North Carolina. (Those who attended the celebration at Hope Plantation will remember the gorgeous furniture attributed to craftsmen of the Roanoke River basin.)

### **A few comments from our very first Executive Director:**

“Even after nearly seven years as the NC Society’s Executive Director, I can’t say that my work is in any way “old hat”. Working for a small nonprofit, I wear many bonnets – management, finance, writing, board support, public relations, marketing, graphic design, preservation, web-site development – and that suits me perfectly.

No two days are alike. I might start the day approving bills for payment and end it by adding an article to [ncdames.org](http://ncdames.org). In between, I may have met with a contractor about repairs to Headquarters and worked on the layout of the Pine Cone. The next day might begin with writing a press release and finish with a review of profit and loss statements.



Joy Allen

Every year brings fresh challenges and new goals. Whenever my staff and I complete a large project, we rejoice and quickly embrace the next. I am fortunate to have a dream team of over-achieving, type-A personalities working with me.

I often refer to myself as the President of the NC Dames Fan Club, because I am so inspired by the achievements of the Society. This past year, in particular, as we celebrate the Society's 125th anniversary, I have been on a mission to spread the word, so that the NC Dames receive the recognition they deserve." Joy Allen, ED , 2019 *(Joy has described her job so beautifully that I'll just add that her skills, her calm demeanor, and her willingness to contribute at all levels have made her an invaluable employee and a wonderful co-worker. Thanks Joy.)*

Joy did not waste any time applying for a grant for our Headquarters House. At the 2013 Annual Meeting, Jan Bridgers ,the BWH Chair reports, "... the Burgwin-Wright received a grant - valued at \$4000. - from the American Alliance of Museums to participate in a museum assessment program. The first phase of the assessment involved the staff completing a self-study. The President and House Chairman contributed to this effort, which required several months to complete. *(I'm thinking back to Amy Thullen's description of accreditation!)*

The assessment culminated in a site visit by a peer reviewer, Mamie Gasperez, a Louisiana Dame, and the executive director of two house museums in New Orleans. She spent two days at the house interviewing staff, board members, and community stake holders. With the information she gathered and the self-study materials, she will produce a report with recommendations on ways the museum can improve. It will cover the areas of operations, business practices and visitor experience." Jan concludes by saying, "We are eager to receive the report and learn how we can continue on a path of continuous progress."

As the self-improvement movement began to pick up speed, some of our seasoned staff decided that it was time to retire. We were sad to see them go. Little did we know, however, that we had much to look forward to with our new recruits.

**Museum Milestone: In Fall of 2012, Jan Bridgers was asked not only to be Burgwin-Wright House chairman, but she was also asked to start a Headquarters Board. What started small has blossomed into a strong governing body including a Chairman, the Museum Director, the Executive Director, the Garden Chairman, and additional members.**

In the summer of 2013, Joy Allen, new executive director, hired Christine Lamberton, an instructor in the Public History Department at UNCW. Christine started as the Director of Visitor Experience and quickly moved into the role of Museum Director. She brought with her the latest ideas on how to display, store, and teach history. She also brought interns studying history who wanted time in a museum. Win-Win!

## What is public history?

"Want to take your degree in History and work in a museum; historical site, park, archive, historic



Friends reunite at the summer fundraiser cocktail parties, one year at Wrightsville Beach and the next year at Figure 8 Yacht Club.

preservation office, historical consulting firm, or other area? Then public history is the path for you. Public history is the use of historical skills and methods outside of the traditional academic realm of history.” Google

One of the first things that Christine and her interns accomplished was to revise the 4th Grade field trip. The new “People of the Past” program provides a more interactive and hands-on experience. Guided through the fully furnished 1770 house, 1744 jail buildings, and an outdoor kitchen, students learn about the lives of the prisoners, planter class, and enslaved people who lived and worked on the property. The students enjoyed the tours and gave the docents high evaluation marks! That was new! *Thanks to Christine, and all of our very motivated and intelligent interns!*

The Burgwin Wright House enjoyed two outstanding honors in the last year. First, our faithful, inspired garden chairman was given the Gertrude B. Caraway Award of Merit for her rigorous work to restore the seven gardens of Headquarters to a beautiful and healthy utopia of greenery. Jocelyn Lynch, a former art teacher, floral designer, and master gardener combined her talents to earn this fine recognition from “Preservation NC”.



Jocelyn



Joy and Christine

Next, our Colonial town house at Third and Market within the Historic District of Wilmington was awarded a Preservation Award by the Historic Wilmington Foundation. These awards are presented yearly for adaptive reuse, rehabilitation, appropriate new construction, and restoration. Berta Hamilton, Mary Eggleston, Christine Lamberton, and Joy Allen accepted the award on behalf of the NSCDA-NC and, especially, on behalf of the New Hanover Committee, the caretakers of this colonial treasure.



## Oysters in the Orchard? Why not?



Since 2016, the BWH Oyster Roast has been a big hit!



## Haywood Hall, 1799

“The family of Haywood is of English origins and was settled in Northwestern England from very early times. The first of the Haywood family to come to this country was John Haywood in the early part of the severy and resided at the mouth of Conoconaire Creek, in a part of the colonial county of Edgee, now a part of Halifax County. In 1752 Colonel Haywood was made Treasurer of the Northern counties of the province. He married Mary Lovett and was the father of 7 children, the oldest of whom was William Haywood.



William was made Colonel in the Provincial forces of NC in the county of Edgecombe. In 1760 he received from the Earl of Granville a grant of 44 acres of land and in 1761, 113 acres, for which he was required to pay forever a yearly rental of three shillings per hundred acres. This rental to the crown was evidently discontinued after the Revolutionary War. William was a member of numerous committees serving the State of NC during these trying times and was evidently a man highly thought of by the population of Edgecombe County and his work was of great benefit to the State. Colonel Haywood built his home on the land obtained from the grant, calling it Dunbar Plantation. His son John Haywood was born on February 23, 1755 at Dunbar Plantation. He is described as a blond, good-looking young man and proud of his English looks and bearings. John was well educated, served in the militia and acted in a clerical capacity for several general assemblies which convened during the course of the Revolution.

In 1787 John Haywood was elected Treasurer of the State of NC, a position he held for 40 years. Taxes and currency were two of the tasks he had to overcome, but John handled it with ease and had no rebellion. The total population of NC at that time was approximately 100,000, the total wealth was very small, with no factories and the only taxable wealth was the farm products and personal property. In 1792 the legislature of NC passed a law requiring the officers of the State to reside in the State capital. Under this requirement John Haywood moved to Raleigh and purchased a square of land. In 1792 he started building a home on the site where Haywood Hall currently resides. He was married twice. His first wife, Sarah Leigh died childless. He was married in 1798 to Eliza Eagles Williams, and they had 12 children among whom were his eldest Betsey John Haywood, his eldest son Fabius J. Haywood



and his youngest son, Edmund Burke Haywood. Fabius was the grand-father of Mary Haywood Stearns who left Haywood Hall to the NC Dames in 1977. John Haywood was undoubtedly one of the most popular men of his time as testified by the fact that not only was the town of Haywood named for him but also the county of Haywood in the western part of the state. He was intensely interested in education and during his entire life was always willing to help worthy young men to obtain an education. Many men who later became prominent in NC owe a great deal to the help given them by John Haywood. He was a member of the committee to select a site and found UNC, was one of the original trustees of UNC and remained on the Board of Trustees as long as he lived. He was one of the founders of Christ Church in Raleigh and was a Warden and Vestryman of that church during his lifetime. John Haywood died November 18, 1827 at the age of 72. Haywood Hall was known as a gathering space where John Haywood made his reputation for hospitality hosting each member of the Legislature for breakfast.

There were also assemblies or balls of the period held at Haywood Hall as it was the largest place available. Back in the day a large portion of the yard was devoted to utility purposes and beautiful gardens. There were slave quarters, horse and cow stables and a carriage house. There were flowers, flowering shrubs and ornamental walkways. The gardens were well planted with either fruits or vegetables for household use and the scuppernong grapevine. The greatest ornament was a magnificent magnolia tree imported from Brazil which still stands in the center of the garden today. The garden always was the home of numerous birds, such as the hummingbird, the mockingbird, and the cardinal. Large plots of roses, daffodils, bluebells, Jessamine, snowdrops and many other flowers made the place one that could never be forgotten. The garden was fondly named Eliza's Garden." *Fairley Bell Cook, 2017 Annual Meeting*

Today, Eliza's garden is an attractive drawing card for events at Haywood Hall. The lovely garden provides an outdoor setting that affords the property a distinction from other Raleigh event venues. For the HH Board to allow Haywood Hall to be rented has been a financial lifesaver for this 227 year old home. The house is a popular venue that was even featured in *The Knot*, a modern bridal magazine that assigned 5 stars (high praise) to the site. Eliza would be so pleased with the positive press!

Haywood Hall has the enviable position of having many descendants who care deeply about her. Probably the most notable to the NSCDA-NC is Mary Haywood Fowle Stearns. Her concern for her ancestral home was demonstrated in her bequest of the property to the North Carolina Society. Mary was the granddaughter of John and Liza Haywood and one of three children of Governor Fowle, the first occupant of the newly completed Governor's Mansion on Blount Street.



**Museum milestone: In 1999, Haywood Hall turned 200 years old. A gala event with drinks and dinner was held in the newly restored Capitol Building. The chair of cultural Resources, the charming Betty Ray McCain, secured the capitol for this event.**





**Museum Moment:** In December of 2013, a special Christmas event was held to honor Mrs. Marshall Haywood. Margie had given 34 years of dedicated service to Haywood Hall as curator and as a member of friends. There were 99 guests who attended to show their gratitude for her devotion, wise counsel, and generous hours given to her husband's ancestral home. Thanks Margie

In her will, Mary also named the advisory board for Haywood Hall. The paragraph reads: "This property shall be held, administered, and used consistent with the purposes for which it is hereby given, in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by the governing body of said North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames of America. I appoint Henry D. Haywood, Dr. Hubert Haywood, Jr., Richard H. Mason, Henry H. Sink and the head of the Department of Archives and History of the State of North Carolina to serve as an advisory committee for such governing board in making its determinations, and this committee shall select new members to fill vacancies in the committee."

Of particular note at this museum was a yearly celebration that satisfied all three project goals of the NSCDA - Historical Activities, Patriotic Service, and Museum Properties. A Fourth of July Event was celebrated yearly at Haywood Hall. Through the years the event gained momentum so that by 2005 the house chairman, Nancy Perry Haywood of Concord, reported "the Fourth of July festivities sponsored by Friends entertained some 450 visitors who enjoyed games, music, ice cream, punch, cookies, and cupcakes. A large tent in the garden offered relief from the heat." Open to the public every Fourth of July, this gift to Raleigh was a great success. Thanks HH



Chef Bobby Flay

Pop Culture arrived at Haywood Hall on May 13 of 2009. The Food Network star, Bobby Flay, dared Raleigh Pitmaster Ed Mitchell to a Barbeque Throwdown (a term used by Bobby Flay TV to describe a challenge). New Bern Place had never seen anything like it! The menu was ribs and baked beans. Despite rain and cold lots of folks turned out to see the two square off food-wise. There are some great shots of Eliza's garden and the back of HH in the 21 minute video. You can still watch it on IMBD. Okay, I'll tell you who won. It was Ed! The judges were from NC.

## The Parlor Restoration Project - HH

The classic Federal style of architecture in Haywood Hall gives it special status among the wealth of historic houses in NC. Around 2014, an idea was afoot to open two rooms on the western side of the building for more entertaining space. The onus for making this change fell on the shoulders of the house chairman, Clare Maddison. Knowing the seriousness of such a dramatic move, Clare called upon well-known restoration expert Dean Ruedrich. These two dedicated workers researched the archives of Haywood Hall to discover the many changes the house had undergone over time. They grappled with the question “What would fit the original integrity of the house?” They studied the underpinnings of the house to look for its authentic bones.

To quote Clare in her 2016 annual report, “Our long awaited project of exploring the construction of the wall separating the dining room and library began in early January. The purpose of this endeavor was to determine if the two rooms could be opened up as one, giving Haywood Hall a much needed larger space for events. In Mary Haywood Fowle Stearns’ will she grants permission for the two rooms to become one. With the guidance of many experts: Historic Preservation, Ruedrich Restorations, Hagersmith Design, PA and Alpha and Omega Group PC, the exploration project has been completed. The wall exploration uncovered many new stories of the construction of Haywood Hall. The evolution of this wonderful home is fascinating, and a story we should share.



John Haywood had not been living in Haywood Hall for long before he decided to alter the western end of his house. (There was no kitchen wing at that time.) He added about 6 feet to the west side and made one large room out of what had previously been two separate rooms. The new larger room had one fireplace in the middle of the western wall rather than the two previous corner hearths. This configuration lasted for decades until the weight of the upper floor caused sagging. After John died, Eliza and her sons decided to recreate two rooms with corner fireplaces to support the upper floor. This is the same floor plan in use today (2019).

Before her death in 1977 when Mary Stearns created her will, she gave permission for the two western parlors to be returned to one “original” large room. Clare Maddison and her team believe that it was actually the second configuration that Mary was remembering. The restoration team of 2016 had in fact found proof of the original two rooms that John Haywood built in 1799. The various changes can be seen by crawling under the house. Get your overalls!

After all of this investigation, the decision to make any change was put on hold. The estimated costs of the project and the uncertainty of returning to a big room caused a halt. However, this year of ex-



ploration was an excellent example of the utmost care needed for a museum house to retain the status of an authentic historic home. Any change is a big deal! Thanks Clare.

With this information in mind the Board of Haywood Hall continues to deliberate over the idea of making one large room out of two. Modern costs of maintaining a house museum drive the need for practical updates to create income. With one large room, a larger indoor space could be rented for events. Haywood Hall is not alone in considering this balance of preservation versus practicality. All of our museums struggle with this question.

During the years of 2017 and 2018 many questions arose among the state board members about ownership of HH as set out in Mary Stearns' will. The Board of Managers hired a Raleigh Estate Attorney Maria Lynch who clarified numerous questions that had arisen over the role of the NSCDA-NC in Haywood Hall, and over the nature of Mary's will. As reported previously, the Board of Managers, satisfied by their understanding of the state's role with HH, voted to recommit their stewardship to the support of Haywood Hall.



Starting in 2013, the Haywood Hall Oyster roast has become the fundraising event of the year.

"A gathering took place at Haywood Hall on May 20, 2018 to celebrate recent large scale improvements to the historic property. In addition to electrical and plumbing upgrades, the exterior was painted, the upstairs bathrooms were upgraded, many rooms received new window treatments and furniture was re-upholstered. Guests enjoyed self-guided tours of the house and Eliza's Garden, where refreshments were served." (borrowed from the NSCDA-NC website) Fairley said that the oyster roasts for 5 years, the sale of stocks, 2 grants, and a donation from NSCDA-NC combined to give the old girl a facelift. In Fairley's words, "Everybody is enjoying it! The word is out. We look good again!" *Fairley Bell Cook, HH chair 2017-*



## Haywood Hall Oyster Roast



## Revival of Historic Rosedale

The following work was submitted by Alice Glover, NC Dame from Durham , and 2019 NSCDA-NC member of the Board. She was supported in her research by her mother Ann Glover and close friend Frances Clardy who were both instrumental in saving this significant Mecklenburg home. This is a fascinating story of what a small group of citizens can do. What wonderful examples of preservationists who follow our mission described in Article II, "...to preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country..."! Read to discover how they rallied a city to make this landmark possible. *Thanks ladies.*



### Historic Rosedale Plantation – A Dame’s View

Located just north of uptown Charlotte, Historic Rosedale Plantation was built in 1815, over 200 years ago and until the 1980s, it was privately owned and lovingly maintained by five generations of families: the Frews, Caldwells and the Davidsons. The property encompasses nine acres of land and includes the beautifully restored house as well as a blacksmith shop surrounded by gardens all maintained and often enhanced over the years by the families who resided at Rosedale. Not only is it a popular destination for visitors to Charlotte, but it is a lovely venue for special events throughout the year.

The last people to own Rosedale were Mary Louise and Alice Davidson, both were members of the Colonial Dames and active in the Mecklenburg Committee. In later years, the sisters found it increasingly difficult to maintain the home and the grounds. A developer made the sisters a tempting offer in the 1980s to purchase the property, but the plan to demolish the dwellings and build houses was devastating to the sisters. Mary Louise and Alice asked the



Colonial Dames to purchase the home. The Mecklenburg Committee lacked the funds to purchase the house but wanted to preserve it, so the committee devised a plan to save Rosedale.

The Dames approached Myrick Howard of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina and he agreed to team with them to purchase and hold the property while the Dames attempted to raise the purchase price. The Davidson sisters sold the property to the Historic Preservation Foundation for \$250,000. This purchase was the impetus the Mecklenburg Dames needed to press forward on the mission to save Rosedale and in 1986, the Historic Rosedale Foundation was established. The Mecklenburg Dames appointed a Rosedale Committee chaired by Frances Clardy with Betsy Garland, Ann Lockhart, Ann Glover, Hannah Craighill, and Jane Moore Leak leading the way to find additional funding to restore Rosedale.

Dames financial support was significant from the beginning. Almost singlehandedly, Jane Moore Leak raised nearly \$300,000 from Mecklenburg Dames donors who each gave \$5,000 (no more, no less) to honor another Dame, often a family member. This special Roll of Honor list of Dames Donors can be viewed in the home at Rosedale.

Next stop: Financial assistance from General Assembly. Ann Glover worked with Marion Cowell, then General Counsel for First Union, who introduced her to Tony Rand, a power broker and head of Appropriations in the NC General Assembly. Together with a Dames brigade of Sally Hughes, Jan Stedman, Frances Clardy and Betsy Garland, Ann Glover led the charge to Raleigh to meet with their Mecklenburg delegation in hopes of securing \$25,000 from the General Assembly. A meeting with Senator Rand proved highly successful with Senator Rand suggesting the Dames increase the amount of funding they were originally seeking from \$25,000 to \$300,000. The appropriation request was ultimately approved with the Senator's support.



Backed by the financial muscle of the Mecklenburg Dames and the General Assembly as well as the Historic Preservation Foundation, the Dames quickly moved to broaden the appeal and support for Rosedale. They promoted the property through the journalistic talents of former Charlotte Observer Editor, Rolf Neil, who wrote an editorial in the Sunday Observer lauding the Dames effort to preserve an important piece of Mecklenburg history. Charlotte leaders were invited to visit Rosedale and for convenience, the Dames arranged transportation for the leaders from their downtown offices to Rosedale, where they enjoyed a boxed lunch. As a result, community leaders including bankers John Stedman, Hugh McColl, Rennie Cuthbertson as well as business leaders Katherine Belk, Frank Martin (the first Board Chairman), Jick Garland, Bill White and Peter McKay agreed to take hands-on leadership roles of Rosedale. The Stuart Dickson family generously donated funds to restore the gardens in honor of their mother.



The Junior League adopted Rosedale as a project. The League organized Rosedale volunteers and funded the salary of the first Executive Director, Mecklenburg Dame Ann Glover, for a two-year period. Continued fundraising efforts led by the Dames totaled over a million dollars, thanks to the dedication and efforts of Dames Roland Elliott and Betsy White.

The restoration took 6 years and Historic Rosedale Plantation opened to the public in 1993. The property is a thriving example of federal-era plantation life in Charlotte with the special, added benefit of our own Dames sisters' recollections that were a major source for oral histories and memory maps of where outbuildings used to be and how their mother's gardens had looked in the early 1900s. Mary Louise passed away in 1997 and Alice died in 2008.

The story of Rosedale is the story of how a group of very determined Dames saved a wonderful federal house and preserved its amazing faux graining, elaborate woodwork, and wallpaper – all original to the house. It is the story of a house built over 200 years ago, overlooking the historic pioneer wagon trail that extended from Pennsylvania and Virginia through the Carolinas. In recent years, due to the generosity of Mecklenburg Dame Agnes Weisiger, Rosedale has a new building featuring offices, a catering kitchen and high-tech conference rooms. The gardens have been restored and enlarged. The community truly enjoys Rosedale by attending parties, weddings, school tours, historic reenactments and special events.

In 2012, the Mecklenburg Committee received the distinguished honor of receiving the first Historic Preservation award given by the North Carolina Society. The award was presented in recognition of the role members of the Mecklenburg Committee played in acquiring and preserving Historic Rosedale.

Rosedale continues to be a shining example of the mission of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and the Mecklenburg Dames are pleased to have been an integral part in saving this wonderful property.



## The Presidents and the Annual Meetings 1994-2019

100	1994	Mary Taylor	Wilmington	4-27-94
101	1995	Georgia Joyner	Raleigh	4-24-95
102	1996	Georgia Joyner	Wrightsville B	4-24-96
103	1997	Mary Swanson	Greensboro	4-30-97
104	1998	Mary Swanson	Wilmington	4-22-98
105	1999	Cissy Loughlin	Charlotte	4-21-99
106	2000	Cissy Loughlin	Wilmington	4-12-00
107	2001	Elizabeth King	Winston-Salem	5-02-01
108	2002	Elizabeth King	Wilmington	4-23-02
109	2003	Elizabeth King	Raleigh	4-12-03
110	2004	Elizabeth King	Wilmington	5-08-04
111	2005	Margaret Freeman	Charlotte	4-23-05
112	2006	Margaret Freeman	Wilmington	4-29-06
113	2007	Annie Gray Lane	Greensboro	4-25-07
114	2008	Annie Gray Lane	Wilmington	4-23-08
115	2009	Ginger Finley	Winston-Salem	4-29-09
116	2010	Ginger Finley	Fayetteville	4-22-10
117	2011	Mary Eggleston	Pinehurst	4-11-11
118	2012	Mary Eggleston	Durham	4-16-12
119	2013	Mary Eggleston	Wilmington	4-22-13
120	2014	Mary Eggleston	Charlotte	4-4-14
121	2015	Betsy King	Asheville	4-17-15
122	2016	Betsy King	Winston-Salem	4-22-16
123	2017	Margaret Hamilton	Chapel Hill	4-28-17
124	2018	Margaret Hamilton	Wrightsville B	4-27-18
125	2019	Sara Larkin	Raleigh	4-25-19

**Resident V.P.**

94-95 Mary Bellany Swanson (Koonce)  
96-97 Virginia Simmons Shew  
98-00 Elizabeth Brown King  
01-03 Margaret Scott Freeman  
04-06 Ruth Fox Jordan  
07-11 Nancy Stovall Horton  
14-17 Elizabeth Longley Donald  
18-19 Alice Shepherd Glover

**Recording Secretary**

94-97 Margaret Wyche Groover  
98-03 Ruth Fox Jordan  
04-07 Elizabeth Longley Donald  
08-10 Bettie Roberson Stovall  
11-12 Anne Harrison Murchison  
13-14 Roberta West Quis  
15-17 Lawson Bonner Anderson  
18-19 Lyl McLean Clinard

**Corresponding Secretary**

94-95 Laura Harriss Head  
96-97 Ruth Fox Jordan  
98-01 Margaret Lippitt Rorison  
02-04 Paula McGurk Meyer  
05-10 Martha Anne Sigmon  
11-12 Derosset Detgen Blackwell  
2013 Lillian James smith  
2014 Roberta West Quis  
15-19 Pauline Johnson Stewart

**Treasurer**

94-96 Miranda Burnett Miles  
97-03 Katherine Grainger Taylor  
04-07 Jane Fox Brown  
08-13 Elizabeth Longley Donald  
14-19 Elisabeth Nimocks Gooch

**Registrar**

97-98 Marguerite Worth Penick  
99-07 Dixey Andrews Smith  
08-15 Margaret Morrison Hamilton  
16-17 Barbara Martin Lawther  
18~19 Catherine Freeman Halligan

**Registrar of Associates States**

96-97 Elizabeth Brown King  
1998 Margaret Wyche Groover  
99-01 Elisabeth Nimocks Gooch  
02-05 Janet Durham Nelms  
06-10 Sara Freshwater Duncan  
2011 Florence Ellen Cowden  
12-19 Cynthia Simmons Boylan

**Parliamentarian**

94-99 Rosalie Watters Carr  
00-12 Frances Wood Loughlin  
2013 Nancy Stovall Horton  
14-17 Sara Moss Larkin  
18-19 Denning Reynolds Lambdin

**Verifying Genealogist**

2006-2011 Blair Maddison Sloan  
2012-2017 Berta Summerlin Hamilton

**Assistant Genealogist**

06-11 Josephine Hunt Rhinehart  
2012 Jan Fox Bridgers  
2018-2019 Louise Washburn Boylan  
(Our genealogists have not always been members of the society. Non-members are not listed.)

**Historian**

94-08 Katherine Rhett Fox  
09-11 Elizabeth Brown King  
13-17 Mary Flagg Haugh  
18-19 Marion Brooke Carson



### **Museum House Chairmen**

#### **Joel Lane Museum House**

94-95 Amy Carr Thullen  
96-98 Isabelle Long Edwards  
99-00 Leslie Logan Gray  
Virginia Doughton Finley  
01-02 Susan Hawfield Whitehead  
02-03 Claria Haines Alexander  
04-05 Stagg Sanders Madry  
Corinna Stokes Bailey  
06-09 Charlotte Smith Purrington  
Betsy Sherrill King  
10- Margaret McCall Rolfson  
11- Nan Pickney Boyne  
12- Clare Garden Maddison  
13- Mary Fairfax Pickel  
14-19 Nan Pickney Boyne

#### **Burgwin-Wright House**

94-95 Halle Townes Jones  
Josephine Hunt Rhinehart  
1996 Josephine Hunt Rhinehart  
Gabrielle Holmes Willard  
1997 Margaret Scott Freeman  
Gabrielle Holmes Willard  
98-00 Martha Best Lawson  
2001 Margaret Scott Freeman  
02-08 Margaret Hooper Turner  
2009 Mary Strange Eggleston  
2010 Catherine Loughlin Stephenson

11-12 Elizabeth Brown King  
13-16 Jan Fox Bridgers  
17-19 Mary Murchison Gornto

#### **Haywood Hall**

1994 Michelle Telfair Bratton  
95-05 Nancy Perry Haywood  
06-12 Griselle Gholson Woodward  
2013 Nancy Grimes Haywood  
14-17 Clare Garden Maddison  
17-19 Fairley Bell Cook

### **State Chairmen for the National Houses**

#### **Regent of Gunston Hall**

94-99 Nancy Cobb Lilly  
00-03 Caroline Houston McMillan  
04-08 Margaret Huntley Bossong  
09-19 Frances Wood Loughlin  
2019 Annie Gray Thorpe Dixon

#### **Regent at Large Gunston Hall**

94-97 Jane Perry Liles  
98-07 Frances Shannonhouse Clardy  
08-11 Elizabeth Hughes Locke  
12-17 Alice Lineberger Harney  
18-19 Virginia Doughton Finley

#### **Lady of Dumbarton**

94-96 Anne Christian Cobb  
97-00 Louise Wooten Talley  
01-06 Constance Bratton Grine

07-12 Carroll Taylor Johnson  
13-14 Barbara Miller O'Herron  
15-19 Elizabeth Brown King

### **Friend of Sulgrave Manor**

94-96 Jean Graham Rapp  
97-99 Annie Gray Thorpe (Lane)  
00-04 Mary Alice Hicks Dorsett  
05-06 Elizabeth Cheshire McOwen  
07-13 Betsey John Cheshire  
13-14 Charlotte Smith Purrington  
2015 Rosalie Hanes Horton  
16-17 Martha Crawley Gallop  
2019 Rebecca Allison Parsley

### **NC Dames Serving at the National Level**

#### **Katherine Taylor Cammack**

National Executive Committee - 2004 to 2014  
National Finance Committee - 1999 to 2019,  
chairman 2011 to 2014  
National Audit Committee - 2004 to 2018,  
chairman 2011 to 2014  
National Strategic Planning Committee - 2010  
to 2019  
National Assistant Treasurer - 2004 to 2010  
National Treasurer - 2010 to 2014  
Dumbarton House Board - 2004 to 2019, Treas-  
urer 2010 to 2014  
National Patriotic Service Committee - 2004 to  
2010  
National Museum Properties Committee (now

National Museum Alliance Committee) - 2004  
to 2010, 2018 to 2019, Chairman 2018 to 2019

National Historical Activities Committee - 2004  
to 2010

#### **Frances Wood Loughlin**

National Corresponding Secretary - 2002 to  
2010

Chairman of National Printing committee -  
2002 to 2010

Chairman of National Museum Properties for  
Region III - 1998 to 2002

Co-Chairman of National Board Meeting, Wilm-  
ington, NC - October 2009

Served on:

North Carolina Regent - Board of Regents of  
Gunston Hall - 2009 to 2019

National Branding Committee - 2012 to 2014

National Codification Committee - 2002 to  
2008

#### **Elizabeth Brown King**

National Vice President from Region III - 2004-  
2010

Chairman, National Calendar Committee -  
2004 - 2010

National Chairman of the Region III Confer-  
ence held in Wilmington, NC- 2008

National Chairman of the National Board Meet-  
ing in Region III (Wilmington, NC) - 2008

Chairman, National Patriotic Service Commit-  
tee in Region III- 2010-2016

Member, National Communications Committee

- 2019 - present

National Consultant for the NSCDA Indian Nurse Scholarship Program - 2016 - present

Region III Major Gifts Chair, NSCDA Comprehensive Campaign - 2017- present

Serve on the following National Committees:

National New Business Committee - 2000-2004

Dumbarton House/National Headquarters Board - 2015 - present

### **Margaret Scott Freeman**

National Patriotic Service Committee,  
Patriotic service Chair, 2016-

### **Recipients 1994-2019 Roll of Honor**

1994 Mrs. Martin Stevenson Willard

1996 Mrs. William Henry Joyner, Jr.

1998 Mrs. Marshall DeLancey Haywood, Jr.

1998 Mrs. John Lewis Simmons

1998 Mrs. Donald Brock Koonce

2000 Mrs. Willie Jones Long, Jr.

2001 Mrs. Edward G. Lilly

2001 Mrs. George Welch Liles

2003 Mrs. Eugene Brooks Hardin, Jr.

2003 Mrs. William Milton King, Jr.

2004 Mrs. Jane Morrison Moore Leak

2004 Mrs. Kenneth Murchison Sprunt

2005 Mrs. Claude Barbour Strickland III

2005 Mrs. James Felix Clardy

2006 Miss Katherine Grainger Taylor

2006 Mrs. Godfrey Cheshire, Jr.

2006 Mrs. Jere D, Freeman III

2007 Mrs. John Robert Trulove

2008 Mrs. Charles T. Lane

2008 Mrs. Paul W. Rhinehart

2008 Mrs. Thomas Bayton Suiter

2010 Mrs. Joseph Culverhouse Bossong

2010 Mrs. Edward Smoot Finley

2011 Mrs. David Ray Nimocks, Jr.

2014 Mrs. David Murchison Eggleston

2016 Mrs. Francis Parker King

2017 Mrs. Jeffrey Winslow Hamilton

2017 Mrs. Major Charles Newsom III

2017 Mrs. John Ward Purrington

### **President's Circle Award Recipients**

2013 Mrs. Roland H. Vaughan

2013 Mrs. Ernst Bischoff Kemm

2014 Mrs. Thomas A. Smoot

2014 Mrs. John Snow Glover

2015 Mrs. Godfrey Cheshire, Jr.

2015 Mrs. Thomas Alison Fanjoy

2016 Mrs. John Woodhouse Andrews

2016 Mrs. Thomas Gillam

2017 Mrs. Laurance Beckley Maddison

2017 Mrs. Francis Rivers Lawther, Jr

2018 Mrs. Roger Alston Moore

2019 Mrs. Sumner Slane Finch





The most important word to remember when running a successful non-profit is enthusiasm, from the Greek “entheos”, God within. This online history is filled with enthusiastic workers who give their time, energy, ideas and even money. If you can keep that spirit going, then the rest falls into place.

Here I am at the 2018 BWH oyster roast enjoying that feeling.

May the force be with you!

Mary Eggleston, your author