



Entrusted With History's Future

**The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America
in the State of South Carolina
Historian Report
2021-2022**

President Mrs. Saunders McKenzie Bridges, Jr. reflected on this past year as one of overcoming. “As I look back through the minutes of meetings in 2021,” she said, “I am reminded that NSCDA-SC took a baby-step forward to normalcy with our 2021 Annual Meeting.”

Mrs. Bridges reported that thanks to our fabulous Office Manager Abby Davis, former NSCDA Membership Manager Rachel Jones, then Columbia Town Chair Verd Cunningham, and NSCDA-SC Colonial Council/Historic Activities Co-Chair Kathy Armato, our meeting was held virtually. The program, entitled “The Inland Settlement of South Carolina during the Colonial Period: Architecture, Trade and Daily Life” was given by John Jameson, heritage consultant for the 12,000 Year History Park; J.R. Fennell, director of the Lexington County Museum, and Andy Thomas, communications associate for the Cayce Historical Museum.

The NSCDA-SC Book Club was a welcome development for our Society. In launching the book club, Kathy Armato sent the membership a summer reading list of historical fiction and nonfiction books, trying to feature the colonial period. The general meeting in Columbia in October 2021 featured author Joseph Kelly who introduced his book *Marooned*. Again, our focus was brought to the earliest days of America before she even had a name. The NSCDA-SC has an opportunity to bring this focus to South Carolinians so that our citizens will know. A committee of Dames, along with Katherine Pemberton, director of The Powder Magazine Museum, is working to have that plan in place and ready for board approval by year’s end.

Perhaps the best news of the year is that the NSCDA-SC is back to meeting in person. It was difficult for new members of the board to have a sense of belonging. Thankfully, those days are behind us, and we are moving full steam ahead *in person*.

Mrs. Bridges conveyed a warm appreciation for the dedication of the NSCDA-SC board of managers who have fulfilled their time of service. Without question, we are a stronger organization for their participation.

As **First Vice President**, Mrs. Samuel Jackson Galloway, Jr. presided at all meetings in the absence of the President, and in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, she shall fill the unexpired term. She performed all duties that were designated to her by the President or the

Board of Managers. She served as the Chairman of the Committee on By-Laws and as the Chairman of the Long-Range Planning Committee. She oriented the new board members in the procedure for voting for new members.

The By-Laws and Standing Rules are continually proofed, updated, and posted on the NSCDA-SC website giving members access to the most current and up-to-date version. There were no proposed changes or amendments made to the By-Laws or Standing Rules from April 15, 2021 to March 1, 2022. The most current and up-to-date By-Laws are posted on the NSCDA-SC website dated April 15, 2021.

Mrs. Joseph Kenneth Germain, Jr. reported that as **Second Vice President**, it was her responsibility to welcome all new members, transfers in, and courtesy members to the South Carolina Society. Since April 2021 to present, we have welcomed 36 Dames to the South Carolina Society. She found it helpful to contact new members by phone to answer questions and to share information about our website.

Third Vice President Mrs. Richard Huguenin Coen reported that the office is running very smoothly again this year thanks to office manager Abby Davis, who is in her fourth year as office manager and is doing a wonderful job. Abby expanded her role with us this year and is helping at The Powder Magazine as well as the office. Also, she was the virtual host for our April Annual meeting this past year and provided tech support for virtual board meetings. She updated the handbook and dues statement format to be more user friendly and added helpful information for members. She also created and implemented a process for purchase of handbooks through the office.

Part of Abby's extended role for 2021 was ongoing marketing and media support for The Powder Magazine: organizing monthly e-newsletters, online marketing for lecture programs, social media posts, website design and updates, and tech support for live lectures via zoom while also adding lecture recordings to YouTube and support with online fundraising campaigns. Abby also provided administrative support for the Fall 2021 Colonial Charleston Teacher Institute.

Mrs. John David Asman, **Fourth Vice President for Finance**, reported that with a combination of awe, excitement, and trepidation, she accepted the nomination to the office of Fourth Vice President for Finance. Her first task was to review and renew our insurance coverage. Our real estate and other non-liquid assets are protected by appropriate property and liability insurance policies. This includes historic replacement cost insurance for The Powder Magazine/Dames House Property. We also have museum collection, directors and officers liability, and workers compensation coverage.

She reported that our investment portfolio is governed by a moderate and balanced investment policy statement. Bulldog Investment Consulting at Stifel in Charleston manages our four investment funds. The pandemic continued to affect certain aspects of our organization. Though many of its income producing programs were curtailed during much of the year, The Powder Magazine marched on, bravely and creatively adapting to the situation as it changed. The second of our two PPP Loans was forgiven this past summer.

Many of the programs, projects, and services that further our exempt purposes are funded by member dues and other charitable contributions. We were able to support all the external eleemosynary organizations and fund scholarships as planned during the year. We have begun work on updating our policies and refining our report presentation.

According to **Treasurer** Mrs. Robert Holmes Hood, Jr., NSCDA-SC had a good financial year. The state had income that exceeded expenses. This fiscal year, our members donated a portion of their dues, memorials, and honorariums which we invested in our Stifel Portfolio. Colonial Council/Powder Magazine received partnerships from members and Town Committees. Thank you to all our members who have supported our Society through their dues and donations. And thank you to Agnes Asman, Capers Grimball and all the Town Committee treasurers for all the hard work they have done this year.

The main duty of **Assistant Treasurer** Mrs. Francis Ellerbe Grimball was to collect and process dues for the State Society and the Town Committees. Approximately 1,100 dues notices were mailed in February 2021 and 110 late notices were sent on April 29. There were phone calls and emails to the members before 34 certified letters were sent on Dec. 2, 2021. Five members were dropped in 2021 for nonpayment of dues. In January, the thank you receipts were mailed to all members. This year payment of dues was shown as a tax-deductible contribution in addition to any donations after consultation with CPAs. On Feb. 1, 2022 dues notices were sent to our 1,120 members.

The responsibility of Mrs. Robert Keith Harris as **Corresponding Secretary** was to oversee all printed and digital membership publications. The contents of the handbook were updated and published on the NSCDA-SC website. A link to a printable version was emailed to the membership on Nov. 4, 2021. On Jan. 14, 2022, members were given the option to purchase a bound copy of the handbook for \$15. A total of 100 hard copy handbooks have been requested and mailed out thus far.

A Summer 2021 *Palmetto Post* was not published this year. Instead, a Fall 2021 *Palmetto Post* was professionally published, printed, and mailed out to the entire membership in an effort to increase readership and engagement. A digital form was also emailed to the membership and is available on the website. The website was updated on an ongoing basis.

Mrs. George Cameron Todd, Jr., **Recording Secretary**, kept accurate minutes for every Board and General Membership meeting and emailed to the President within two weeks following each meeting. Copies of all signed, corrected, and approved minute were filed at Headquarters.

According to **Registrar** Mrs. Gaillard T. Dotterer, Jr., as of January 1, 2022, our state membership totaled 1,085 members. An increase over this past year of five members. This is a welcomed increase, especially during a pandemic.

Our verifying genealogist, Mary Jane Stallworth, and researcher, Renee Marshall, are a delight to work with on proposed members. The National Registrar is Lisa Liles. Our Society voted on new members at our May 2022 meeting and the membership report was sent to the National Registrar on June 1, 2022.

According to **Assistant Registrar** Mrs. Timothy William Bouch, the Board of Managers voted on new members in May and November 2021. Twelve candidates were invited to submit their papers for membership in May. Sixteen candidates were invited to submit their papers for membership in November. Appropriate letters were emailed to all proposers and letters with the invitation to join were mailed to the newly approved candidates.

Throughout the year, electronically fillable proposal blanks, along with instructions for their completion, were emailed to members upon request. The online proposal process continued to be modified as needed to make it as easy to use as possible by all the membership.

In the past year **Registrar for Associate States** Mrs. Daniel Bowman White reported that candidates from the following Associate States have been admitted into NSCDA-SC: Alabama 4, Florida 1, Texas 2, Louisiana 3, and Mississippi 1.

Board Arrangements Chair, Ms. Robert Gabrey Weston, made preparations for the meeting space, collected checks for luncheon reservations, and made name tags available for each board member upon their arrival. She worked closely with the food and beverage director at Forest Lake Club to reserve our meeting dates and to create several menu options to offer a variety so that meals are not repeated. She also worked closely this year with the Columbia Town Chair, Anne Bristow, to select the menu for the October membership meeting which was also held at Forest Lake Club.

Mrs. Henry Wayne Unger, **Collections Chair**, and The Collection Committee continued to review the inventory housed in The Powder Magazine and the Colonial Dames House. The committee deleted items from the inventory approved for deaccessioning. The items on loan to the Old Exchange Building Commission were listed on exhibit A in the agreement dated May 23, 2001 and approved by The Board of Managers for deaccession as an unrestricted gift from the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of South Carolina. They have been transferred and delivered to The Charleston Museum, The Drayton Hall Preservation Trust, and the Old Exchange Commission.

The committee will continue to list all items housed and located in The Powder Magazine and the Colonial Dames House. After completion, a new appraisal will be required for these items. Our insurance carrier will not add or delete any items from our present insurance until we have a new listing and an updated appraisal.

The Museum Alliance Committee, chaired by Mrs. Philip Warren Cotton, was responsible for the South Carolina Society's two historic properties located in Charleston. The Powder Magazine, completed in 1713, is located at 79 Cumberland Street. The house at 81 Cumberland Street, circa 1840, is known as the Colonial Dames House and serves as the NSCDA-SC Headquarters. In addition, the committee oversaw the NSCDA-SC Colonial Council and our Collections objects currently located in four locations.

Mrs. Eugene Dewey Foxworth, III, **Chair of the Colonial Dames House**, kept close check on the state of affairs at 81 Cumberland Street. She visited the property frequently and managed the maintenance as conservatively as possible. A project has been initiated with the Clemson

University Graduate Program in Historic Preservation to investigate and document the history and architecture of the building.

Colonial Council-Historical Activities Chair, Mrs. Steven Michael Armato, reported that over the summer Historical Activities compiled and sent out a *Summer Reading List, a baker's dozen of historical titles*. In October 2021, the official launch of the NSCDA-SC Book Club was our first in-person state meeting since 2019. The meeting was joyful and well attended.

Mrs. Armato also shared that despite the cancellation of many town committee meetings, the Colonial Council held its four scheduled meetings. The first of “the season” was the September 2021 orientation meeting held in person in Florence. Prior to this meeting, they determined that the orientation meeting should travel to a different part of the state each year.

The 2021 SC History Day competition topic was “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.” Participation by students and judges was low last year due to pandemic restrictions. Judging is nearly complete for the 2022 regional contests.

Colonial Council Powder Magazine Chair Mrs. Francis Cordes Ford III reported that even under the cloud of COVID, our director, Katherine Pemberton, steered The Powder Magazine to many successes. Although school group visits were still weak, a turnaround is slowly being realized which in the past created much revenue for us. The most time consuming and visible project this year was the gift shop renovation. For many months visitors were brought through the front gate and purchased tickets under a canon yard tent. The work by the ACBA carpentry students was exceptional, and they look forward to having them work next on our entry door and side lights.

She also shared that interesting programming continued with the virtual 2nd Cup Conversations, Colonial Walled City series, and the return of the 2021 Fall Colonial Charleston Teacher Institute. The Powder Magazine Facebook posts continued to be informative and kept us visible on social media.

The number of **Young Dames** in NSCDA-SC continued to grow. Many of these same young women are also members of our country’s workforce. Balancing family, careers, and the time commitment of the Dames is a daunting task. In an effort to engage their participation in our projects, Valentines for Vets, which was initiated by SC Dames in 2020, was the perfect activity. Young Dames were asked to provide the two Veteran Administration Hospitals in South Carolina with enough Valentines for each patient. Young Dames along with their children, nieces and nephews colored, painted, and crafted nearly 800 Valentines.

An unexpected outcome of the Young Dames project was the abundant enthusiasm they showed in executing the task. The vitality shown by these young women served to invigorate our organization, and we look forward to their continued inspiration.

Parliamentarian Mrs. John Frampton Maybank attended the meetings of the Board of Managers and assisted with the interpretation of bylaws. She helped tally votes, especially during elections.

As **Patriotic Service Chair**, Mrs. Donald Asendorf Harper worked with Town Committee representatives to promote patriotism and American heritage. For the Congressional Workshop, essays were sent to National and two new winners were selected. Since the workshop has not been held for the past two years, there will be seven South Carolina students who will be attending this year. The dates of the seminar June 25 through July 1, 2022. For students who may be now enrolled in college, there will be a targeted curriculum.

For the Veteran's History Project, Marianna McIntyre continued interviewing and recording veteran's stories for the Library of Congress. There were several interview days held at Patriot's Point.

Under the leadership of Chair Ms. Mary P. Weston, the **Scholarships** Committee oversaw and reviewed all scholarships awarded by the state society and explored expansion opportunities. The committee was composed of six members and included representation from the Finance Committee and Patriotic Service.

Per our ongoing agreements with the College of Charleston, Converse College, and Winthrop University, each school awarded a \$2,000 Colonial Dames Teaching of History Scholarship to an aspiring teacher pursuing a degree. These were funded by budgeted funds and interest from the Scholarship Fund.

The state society provided funding for a summer intern at The Powder Magazine, support for the national American Indian Nurse scholarship, and funding for the NSCDA District 8 Scholarship which is awarded to a graduate student in history and rotates among the four societies in Region III. On behalf of NSCDA-SC, the Scholarship committee also sent support to two organizations that assist veterans in addressing and overcoming challenges such as PTSD and retraining for employment: Upstate Warrior Solution and Vets on Deck in Charleston.

As **Special Projects Chair**, Mrs. Henry Manning Unger assisted in any special projects that the state and town committees were interested in pursuing. Those projects included The Explore Colonial South Carolina project and the GAT Book project.

As the **Columbia Town Committee Chair**, Mrs. Walter James Bristow, III reported that as the world was eager to return to normal after over a year of isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Columbia Town Committee cautiously planned for the 2021-2022 club year. The COTC hosted the NSCDA-SC statewide board and general membership meetings on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021.

Mrs. James Pinckney Kellett, IV and Mrs. Clarence Ernest Phillips, III, **Georgetown Town Committee Chairs**, reported that their town committee was so excited to be able to meet in person again. In December, several of their members and some spouses attended the opening of the Palmetto Magazine Museum. They are meeting and making plans for the State Meeting in Georgetown to be held on April 19 and 20, 2022-23.

The **Greenville Town Committee** was chaired by Mrs. Jennings Gillem Pressly and Mrs. Daniel Bowman White. Their 2021-22 year began with a well-attended October meeting followed by

lunch and an indigo workshop where each one tied and dyed silk scarves using a technique called “Shibori.” Their membership watched with great pride as the renovation of the gift shop area of the Powder Magazine became a reality.

Mrs. Bruce Devon Ball chaired the **Lowcountry Town Committee** and reported that they successfully tackled the changing schedule of meetings throughout the year. They rebounded with a well-attended tour of the American College of Building Arts and lecture on “A Summer of Architectural Carpentry at Mount Vernon” given by preservation carpenter Steven Fancsali. Their Annual Meeting Committee has planned a spectacular NSCDA-SC 129th annual meeting to be held in the Lowcountry April 20 and April 21, 2022.

As Chair, Mrs. Albert Thomas Gilpin reported that the **Pee Dee Town Committee’s** first in-person meeting was a joyful reunion of friends at a picnic lunch. The budget was approved for the Pee Dee Town Committee to continue to give \$1,000 to The Powder Magazine. The Pee Dee Town Committee is proud to have Mrs. Saunders McKenzie Bridges, Jr. serving as President of the Colonial Dames State Board.

The **Spartanburg Town Committee** Chair Mrs. Victor Charles McLeod, III shared that they burst out of isolation with their first in person gathering with a magnificent cocktail party for new members. She reported that they will continue their contributions of \$1,000 to TPM/CC and \$100 to each Dumbarton House, Gunston Hall, and Sulgrave Manor. They currently have 75 members.

Mrs. Robert Samuel Stokes, **Lady of Dumbarton House**, reported that the annual fall meeting was held Sept. 29 through Oct. 1, 2021. New Board Members toured Dumbarton House and were honored with a reception and dinner at Sulgrave Club.

Dumbarton House and staff welcomed Carol Cadou, a fellow Dame as the new Executive Director of NSCDA and National Headquarters Dumbarton House. The staff successfully maintained virtual and in-person events and programs. Educational programs and tours provided opportunities for students, regional community members, Dames, and tourists. Online and digital programs served a larger and more diverse audience.

The Comprehensive Campaign was extraordinarily successful and made possible through donations by Dames and the corporate societies. The NSCDA-SC society and its members have supported Friends of Dumbarton House and Dumbarton House Funds for the Future with generous contributions.

According to **South Carolina Regent for Gunston Hall**, Mrs. Douglas Neal Kelly was happy to report that despite the continuing global health situation, 2021 was a busy year at Gunston Hall. The archaeology team spent the dig season searching for evidence of the fence that once surrounded the kitchen yard.

Public programs shifted from entirely virtual to a mix of onsite and online events. The site’s first in person event in 12 months was the annual kite festival. Summer Saturday programs invited both in-person and virtual audiences to explore a variety of aspects of life in the colonial period.

In honor of Constitution Day, Gunston Hall was able to welcome back USCIS for a naturalization ceremony. Almost three dozen people became citizens during an outdoor ceremony in front of the historic mansion.

Gunston Hall made great progress in its restoration of the riverside garden. Staff established the nine-foot perennial beds that border the main walkways of the space and began planting the fruit trees that will define the garden. They planted a variety of heirloom species of fruits and vegetables, including lettuce, collard greens, okra, peppers, beans, eggplant, potatoes, pumpkins, and squash.

As part of the garden project, Gunston Hall held its first plant sale, offering herbs, greens, tomatoes, and flowers to visitors. For every plant guests purchased, they received a historic recipe, both in its original 18th century form and in a modern style. As the riverside garden restoration nears completion, Gunston Hall moves into the next phase of the 20-year Master Site Plan: The East Yard. The riverside garden and East Yard projects are the first steps of the Master Site Plan to restore and protect the historic core of Gunston Hall.

Associate Trustee Sulgrave Manor, Mrs. Douglas McKay, III reported that the Friends of Sulgrave Manor met its goal of raising \$100,000 for the new George Washington exhibit by the spring 2021. The first Sulgrave Seminar, *Continuities and Disruptions in Transatlantic Histories at Sulgrave Manor* was offered online in June 2021. Sulgrave's Autumn 2021 Seminar focused upon two Presidents: *Presidents and Crises: George Washington and Ronald Reagan*. It linked the topic of building and rebuilding trust in the idea of America.

The Education Committee of Friends of Sulgrave Manor developed a bookmark to be sent with the solicitation letters that are mailed in February near the birthday of George Washington. From England, Sulgrave Manor is now issuing a monthly newsletter filled with information about what is happening both in the house and about the grounds. The first issue arrived in February 2022.

As **Historian**, Mrs. Henry Brevard Clay prepared the historian's report which is a summary of the NSCDA-SC activities for the year. This report was posted on the state website and a copy was sent to the National Board to be shared with other societies.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Henry Brevard Clay, Jr., Historian