

Anniversary Issue 1917-2017

The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland Celebrates the First 100 Years of Stewardship of Mount Clare Museum House



NSCDA Maryland seal



Mount Clare 1929



New Limited Edition
Centennial Scarf

In 1917, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland (NSCDA-MD) began the stewardship of Mount Clare Museum House in Carroll Park, thus initiating a century of safekeeping for the oldest museum house in the City of Baltimore. It is with a great deal of pride that we present this issue of the Clarion which shows that our Society and Mount Clare are alive, well and thriving in the 21st Century.

Thank you to all in our community, the B&O Railroad Museum, our scores of volunteers through the years and our Society who have made these past 100 years a success! Please come to Mount Clare to celebrate on November 4, 2017 beginning at 10:30. Invitations will follow. Hope to see you there.

Best,
Macky Ayers, President, NSCDA-Maryland

On behalf of Baltimore's history, heritage and preservation community allow me to offer our sincere congratulations to all of you on the 100th anniversary of your stewardship of Mount Clare. I shudder to think what would have befallen that magnificent Georgian house had not the Maryland Dames stepped up in 1917 to take on the responsibility of preserving such an important place in Maryland and United States history.

All of us here at the B&O Railroad Museum are very proud of our partnership which allows us to be an important part of the interpretation of Mount Clare's history. A century of hard work, assembling its world class collections and greeting visitors from around the world is certainly an achievement worth celebrating!

We look forward to many more years of collaboration and wish you our very best on this important occasion. Congratulations!

Courtney B. Wilson
Executive Director
B & O Railroad Museum



By Carol S. Gould, Manager

Mary Elisabeth [Betty] McDonnell, a member of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America-Maryland since 1965, followed in the footsteps of her mother, Mary Elisabeth Alexander Gore and Grandmother Caroline Bagaley Alexander before her. Their ancestor was Colonel Henry Darnall a successful Planter who was the Proprietary Agent of Charles

Calvert, 3rd Baron of Baltimore. As an Irish born Roman Catholic, Darnall came from England in the late 1670s to pursue freedom and prosperity and he served for a time as the Deputy Governor of the Province. He died in Maryland in 1711 leaving his family over 27,000 acres in Prince George's County as well as Portland Manor in Anne Arundel County where he moved late in life. Colonel Darnall's descendants married into three branches of the Carroll family: the Annapolis branch, the Carrollton branch and the Upper Marlboro branch. In addition to her mother and grandmother, Betty had an aunt who was part of the Virginia society and a younger cousin who was a member of the North Carolina society.

Betty has lived a life rich with adventure, travel, family and rewarding career opportunities that make her the quintessential Colonial Dame. She was born in Bangor, Maine where her father's career in aviation with the CAA [which would later become the Federal Aeronautics Administration FAA] brought about the opening of the Bangor airport. Her parents had both been born in Washington D.C.; her mother a sixth generation Washingtonian. The family returned from Maine to DC when Betty was 3 years old before moving on to Ft. Worth, TX in the late 1930s where her father helped to establish Love Field. During the war years, the family returned to Washington DC where Betty began an ongoing tradition of visiting her Gore grandparents in Georgetown. Her mother became re-established in Alexandria, Virginia, as her father's post war work with the FAA had him training others elsewhere.

Betty treasured the time spent with her grandparents. Her grandfather, the blind Senator Thomas P. Gore was an Oklahoma Senator who brought the Oklahoma Territory into the Union in 1907 and it was after this that her grandparents relocated to Washington and Georgetown. Betty attended the Covent of the Sacred Heart-Eden Hall in Philadelphia and while there came home for regular visits with her grandparents.

Upon completion of her studies in Philadelphia, Betty returned to Washington to attend George Washington University. During the summers she worked at the Southern Railway and later she was hired by the National Security Agency which was a new agency

(Continued on page 4)

OFFICERS

President

Marguerite Dixon Ayers (Macky) (B)

Vice Presidents

1st: Mary Woodfill Park (B)

2nd: Elizabeth Whitehouse Manley (Benjie) (E)

3rd: Anne Hooper (S)

Recording Secretary

Elisabeth Gore McDonnell (Betty) (B)

Treasurer

Sara Hackney Barley (Sally) (B)

Corresponding Secretary

Julia Devereux Glynn (B)

Corporate State Registrar

Lucinda Dickinson Conger (W)

Registrar for Associate States

Laura West-Birely (B)

Historian

Joanne Cecil Brown (B)

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Term expires in 2018

Robin Crosby (B)

Susan Snyder (A)

Laura West-Birely (B)

Term expires in 2019

Mary Pat Berry (S)

Kathy Cheek (B)

Anne Gurbel (B)

Carol Gould (B)

Term expires in 2020

Blair Iodice (B)

Mariane McCallum (W)

Rene Pallace (B)

Katherine Thomas (B)

TOWN AND COUNTY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Annapolis Frances Harwood

Baltimore April Smith & Robin Hundley

Eastern Shore Benjie Manley

Southern Maryland Mary Pat Berry

Washington, DC Lucinda Conger

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD

Lady of Dumbarton House Kathryn Zabriskie (Kate)

Regent, Gunston Hall Phoebe Levering (Dede)

Friends of Sulgrave Manor Frances Harwood (Fran)

Associate States Registrar Laura West Birely

Colonial State Registrar Lucinda Conger

Goodwill Ambassadors Rosa Halbert & April Smith

Roll of Honor Chair Jean Tubman

Parliamentarian The Hon. Brooke Murdock

Clarion Editor Mary Park/Carol Gould

Teller Robin Crosby

Directory TBD

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee Chair Sally Barley

Museum Properties Chair Dede Levering

Patriotic Service Chair Holly Crosby

Historical Activities Chair TBD

Membership Chair Christine Kameen

Development Chair TBD

Young Dames Chair TBD

Strategic Planning Carol Gould

Communications Mary Park

Committee and Officer Reports

Mount Clare Report: The House Committee has been working hard all summer to keep Mount Clare and the Dames Collection in good shape. When looking back at my notes from last September, I see that Courtney Wilson, our Executive Director Extraordinaire, was deep in the search for someone to take on the job of House Manager. At that meeting he was getting ready to interview a wonderful candidate who was just finishing an Internship at Colonial Williamsburg. Macky and I were invited to meet with her too and were very impressed when Courtney introduced us to Rose Gallenberger!! Happily, here we are one year later and not only did Rose accept the job but in less than a year she has already been promoted to be "Director of Mount Clare Museum House"! That was the beginning of a new life for all of us! Rose has taken over the everyday running of the House and has been working hard to create new programs and workshops to bring in many more visitors. I think my committee will agree with me that Mount Clare is now being cared for the way she should be and we are very grateful to have Rose to do it.

This past summer we had wonderful news that will affect the security around Mount Clare and the safety of our Collection. Courtney and the B&O have been working for several years to bring a new "Mounted Police Horse Stable" to their property. He has just informed us that it will happen and the building will begin within the next year or two! This will make a huge difference for the safety of all Carroll Park visitors and for the Pig Town community in general. Try to envision horses grazing on the lawn in front of Mount Clare!

This November the Dames will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our agreed upon contract with the City of Baltimore, to become Stewards of Mount Clare. It was at that time that the Dames started searching for records and sending out requests to the very prolific Carroll Family and all associated with it, for donations to start putting Mount Clare back together the way it was when built in 1760. How fortunate we are to be the current caretakers of the extraordinary vision and devotion that those early Dames worked so hard to create. Those ladies would be so proud to know that their work has gifted to the people of the City of Baltimore one of the highest regarded collections in the entire country. .

Finally, this year's Friends Appeal has gone out and hopefully you will all consider making a donation. The money is used to care for the collection and more recently to make purchases, such as security cameras, as part of our taking care of our duties. No amount is too small and all is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Phoebe R. Levering
Museum Properties Chairman

Goodwill Ambassador: Exciting news for Mount Clare and Carroll Park! The Baltimore City police Horses are returning. Their old converted 1911 stable is just down the hill from the mansion where many meetings and events are held. The new stable, which will be built on B&O property, should be completed in a year. It will contain a museum of it's own and provide an even bigger draw to our area! The Mayor and Police Commissioner of Baltimore, as well as other dignitaries, were on hand for the press conference. By the way, the Baltimore Mounted unit is the oldest continuous group of it's kind in the U.S.A.

Respectfully, April Smith

Strategic Planning Committee: A new committee is being formed to address a long-term strategic plan for NSCDA-MD. Members from all T & C's are welcome. Please contact Carol Gould if you would like to become part of the strategic planning process.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Gould, Chairman

The Scarf Committee has commissioned a Limited Edition Centennial Scarf for NSCDA Maryland's 100th Anniversary celebration. Completion is expected in December in time for Christmas. Please see photo and insert in the *Clarion* for the order form.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Park,
Chairman Scarf Committee

Communications Committee:

After extensive research and setup by Benjie Manley, the NSCDA-MD Members website is in production and is expected to be introduced on October 31, 2017. It will enable members and prospective members to communicate with each other and to exchange information regarding membership inquiries, and news and activities. Purchases for the new scarf can be made by check or by PayPal online once setup is completed.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Park,
First Vice President

Gift Shop Committee:

We went to NYC to shop for items for the shop at Mount Clare. Here you can find gifts, books, and holiday items. Purchases may be made by MasterCard or Visa, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Macky Ayers and Dede Levering

Reports-continued

Registrar Report

September, 2017

New Member:

MD-3517 Pope, Mrs. Matthew Turner (Sara)

B Sarah Dozier Morehead 2017

Anc. Thomas Warren, 1624-1670

705 Harvey St., Baltimore, MD 21230-5114

sarah.m.pope@icloud.com

Respectfully submitted, Lucinda Conger,

Corporate State Registrar

Baltimore T&C Last Friday of the month lunches at the Valley Inn at 11:30. Kickoff cocktail gathering at 6:30 Friday, October 6, at the Grandstand Grill inside the Timonium Farigrounds at 2200 York Rd, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093 RSVP to April Smith 443-797-7413 or maxhorseover@comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted, April Smith

Eastern Shore Committee Report

September, 2017

Having hosted what most seemed to consider a very successful Annual Meeting at the Historic Robert Morris Inn in Oxford, Maryland we took most of the summer off. In June, the officers, both those coming in and those retiring, were invited to Benjie Manley's home for a luncheon. This was to thank them for serving and so that ideas could be traded. In July, the new officers met again to schedule our meetings for the year and to plan some fun events. Things discussed were trips to Winterthur and Longwood Gardens and a family and friends tailgate picnic party with blue grass music, an auction and cart rides for any young ones or those young at heart, held on the Tubman's horse farm.

A Sunday afternoon fall fundraiser was planned for September 17th. Eleanor Dallam and Al Smith had offered their home. It turned out to be a gorgeous day! Tredhaven Cottage with its quaint cedar shake roof burst forth from behind the ivy covered wall. No longer a mysterious wonderment, it welcomed us with brightly colored flower gardens leading us down the path and into this totally charming home. Al greeted us with a bit of bubbly to brighten our afternoon even more. Ladies came from all over, bringing new friends to mingle. The afternoon concluded by watching the sunset from one of the most fantastic views on the Tred Avon River. As result of the awesome afternoon, many of the new guests expressed an interest in joining the Society. We would look forward to welcoming them all.

The Eastern Shores T&C committee meetings will be held again this year at The Tidewater Inn in Easton on October 19th and November 16th. It has been arranged that we will hold our meeting in The Decanter Room starting at 11am with a delicious lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. There is a cost of \$20.00 with an RSVP requested three days in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjie Manley, Chairman, Eastern
Shore Committee

WHO WE ARE- Continued from page 2

located at Fort Myer, Virginia. She worked part-time and continued her studies at George Washington University. She married Charles Austin McDonnell, Jr., of Baltimore in 1955. Betty was invited to join the Junior League, and learned about her new city and home by volunteering at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Baltimore Museum of Art all while raising their five children.

She modestly refers to these as thirteen years at home, but her involvement in these organizations with like-minded, civically concerned women tells a different story.

When her youngest child went to school, she returned to the working world as a social worker. This career took her to Catholic Charities where for 20 years she worked in placing children with adoptive families. A memorable visit to Seoul, Korea took place in 1983. Nine infants from Korea were brought to several US cities where homes were approved and ready for them. Her social work also included eleven years each with Keswick and Springwell, as well as seventeen years on the Board with the Women's Industrial Exchange. Betty continues to this day to participate with a geriatric care association.

A wealth of energy and commitment keeps her involved in the Colonial Dames as Recording Secretary of the Board for NSCDA-MD. Her fondest memories with the Colonial Dames include luncheons with her mother and grandmother at the Washington Club where she was introduced to a ladies' world of service to others and later being a costumed docent at Mt. Clare. She is interested in the research of the founding Colonial Dames of Maryland. All this while continuing her passions of watercolor painting, reading voraciously as her blind grandfather had encouraged her and her cousin Gore Vidal to do, and knitting with the most unusual yarns that she can find.

Betty is a model Colonial Dame who has served her country, her family, and her adopted home of Maryland in so many ways. We are fortunate to have such a role model among us.



The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland (NSCDA-MD) presents a Limited Edition Centennial Scarf to commemorate the 100th anniversary of our stewardship of Mount Clare Museum House in Carroll Park. In 1917, NSCDA-MD took over the management and care of the 18th Century Georgian home of Charles Carroll, Barrister, and his wife, Margaret Tilghman Carroll. Built in 1760, the house has been turned into a Museum House and represents the oldest and finest Museum House and collection of original furnishings in Baltimore.

This elegant 35-inch square silk twill scarf has an outer border of dark blue on a light beige background. The center features a representation of Margaret Tilghman Carroll's china on which the Marquis de Lafayette and General George Washington, and his wife, Martha dined in the late 1700's. Colors featured are orange, brick red, dark blue and yellow. The corners have a stylized representation of the flowers and fruits grown at Mount Clare. Images of Carroll and Tilghman family crests are placed on the edges along with a Georgian Palladian window and the NSCDA-Maryland seal on the border.



Our scarf is designed by New York fashion designer Marisol Deluna who has designed numerous scarves for state societies of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. The Maryland scarf is intended to replicate the important colonial icons of the state and the NSCDA-MD.

For pre-orders, the cost of the scarf is \$132.50 (includes \$7.50 tax) if ordered by December 1. After December 1, the scarf is \$143.10 (includes \$8.10 tax). The scarf may also be purchased in the Museum Shop after December 1st. If you want a scarf mailed to you, please add an additional \$7.00 for shipping and insurance. It would make an excellent Christmas present.

Please make your check payable to (NSCDA-MD) and mail your check to:
 Mrs. Sally Barley, 218 Tunbridge Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212-3422
 Please indicate below where the scarf should be mailed:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Telephone number or email: _____

A Little History of the Maryland Dames and Mount Clare by Phoebe Randolph Levering

As I sit here writing this piece for the 100th Anniversary addition of the Clarion, I can only imagine how exciting it must have been to be a Maryland Dame in 1917. In looking through "A History of the Society of the Colonial Dames of America," which the society was evidently called in those days, there is a note in the Forward by the author. Mary Fenhagen writes, *the familiarity that I have come to feel for every Colonial Dame of the Maryland Society, past and present, is tinged with awe at the amount they have accomplished and great respect for the way they went about it, under the leadership of their inspiring Presidents.* Well earned praise coming forward from the past!

The book describes the work being done *to stimulate the interest of the public at large in all things Historic. A great deal of Dames business was accomplished during long morning visits as most of the members lived "around the Monument"!* It seems that the love of learning was at the top of the list of being a Dame.

A paper written in 1984 by longtime Dame and great friend of Mount Clare, Betty Welsh, has been found in the archives. She includes most of the details of the founding years. Recording her wealth of knowledge here will be an invaluable way of passing on this fascinating history. With thanks to Betty for her research, I will borrow some of her words.

The last of the Carroll family moved out of the house in about 1840. This once fine house, eight out buildings and gardens soon fell into disrepair. Mount Clare was rented and used in various ways such as a hotel for northern officers and a late 19th century German beer garden and club.

Finely in 1890 the Carroll's sold the mansion to the City of Baltimore. In 1891 all of the furnishings were removed and the Parks Department began a complete clean up, filling in open cesspools, tearing down of an old drinking house, a ten-pin alley, and a shooting gallery. Only the two wells and the pump house were saved because this was the water supply to the house. The house was refurbished with a new roof, chimneys, marble mantels, boundary lines, walkways, and driveways. The wings were rebuilt to be used by the neighborhood as bath houses for men and women. In many cases the houses in the Pig Town area did not have indoor plumbing.

At that time the Olmsted Brothers were beginning the transformation of private estate grounds in Baltimore into public parks including Carroll, Clifton, Leakin and Riverside. On October 24, 1896, the Dames had their first tour of the house and they were highly pleased with what they saw and they envisioned the development of an historic museum room open to the public.

The National Society of the Colonial Dames was founded for the purpose of collecting and preserving old manuscripts, buildings and mementos of our early colonial history. Mount Clare would fit that bill in all ways.

It wasn't until 10 years later, on October 12, 1916, that a special meeting was held to consider a suitable way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of The Maryland Society. Mrs. T. Harrison Garrett, Mrs. William Reed, Mrs. Henry Rogers, Mrs. Whitridge and Miss Mary Winn met with Mayor James Preston to discuss the possibility of the Dames becoming Managers of Mount Clare. The mayor was very interested and wanted the proper authorities to put the house in first class order and make the mansion a Colonial Museum and educational center.



On December 29, 1916 at that 25th Anniversary party, it was announced to all that the Dames were in negotiations with the Parks Board to turn over Mount Clare to them with the intention of creating a Colonial House Museum.

On November 15, 1917, the Park Board granted a license to the Maryland Dames to open the house as a colonial museum. After much consideration, the Dames headquarters at 417 N. Charles Street was sold to the Girls Friendly Society (future Girl Scouts) and Mount Clare became the new headquarters for the Maryland Dames.

In April of 1918 the Dames were given a 25 year lease from the city at \$1.00 a year. A month later the superintendent sent the keys of the house to Mrs. Garrett tied in red, white and blue ribbons and wished The Maryland Society great success.

Furniture was loaned by many Dames to help fill the House. The agreement with the city was that the museum was to be opened to the public twice a week free of charge but on other days the Dames were allowed to charge 25 cents. Post cards were made and sold which helped with expenses. Neighborhood talks were arranged. People came on special excursions. The National Council of the Society came. The B&O railroad provided a special car free of charge from Washington. Foreign visitors made special trips to see Mount Clare. It was said that she was known to be second only to Mount Vernon.

In the 1950's the Dames were interested in acquiring the wings of the House in order to build a library for the valuable manuscripts and books that had been collected. After a number of attempts to make this happen it was finally agreed upon in 1959. The Dames would take over the custody of the wings with the understanding that the entire remodeling expense would be paid for by the Colonial Dames. A usable comfort station was arranged in the stable at the expense of the Bureau of Parks. The bookcases now in the Library were saved from a house fire in 1944 at Ivy Neck on the Rhode River in Anne Arundel County. The cases were found lying in an old barn on the same property and negotiations were made to purchase them.

At an annual meeting in 1923 it is quoted that a clever lady said, "To make an undertaking a success talk about it, others will take up the tale and then interest increases continually." And so, has been the story of Mount Clare as people came to see, love it and return again and again bringing friends from near and far.

Phoebe Randolph Levering is Chairman of Mount Clare Museum House Committee, Regent of Gunston Hall and long-time docent. Dede's great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Charles D. Fisher, was a founding Dame in 1892. Her grandmother, Mrs. Arthur C. Levering, was President of NSCDA in Maryland from 1938-1941 and she also served on the National Board and was instrumental in aiding the renovation of Gunston Hall. Dede's mother, Mrs. Charles B. Levering, was a Dame and also a docent.



Parlor



Dining Room



Staircase



Study



Kitchen



Margaret's boudoir



Margaret's bedroom

Annual Meeting at the Robert Morris Inn in Oxford



Lucinda Conger and Benjie Manley



Laura West-Birely



Hope Morgan, Louise Hayman and Mary Wieler



Kate Zabriskie



Phoebe Levering and Jean Tubman



Macky Ayers NSCDA-Maryland President



Emily McKim Reed Lecture and Luncheon at the L'Hirondelle Club with Dorothy Moss, Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the National Portrait Gallery



Martha Hopkins, Susann Morrison and Page Barroll



Bill & Benjie Manley, Eleanor Dallum Smith, Fred Fiechter III at Eastern Shore

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2017-2018

NSCDA MARYLAND and MOUNT CLARE CALENDAR -2017-2018

See also Calendar of Events for NSCDA at www.nscdamd.org ([after November 1, 2017](#))

2017 BOARD MEETINGS ARE THE 1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

7 September	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10:00 AM
5 October	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10:00 AM
2 November	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10:00 AM
4 November (Saturday)	Anniversary Celebration of NSCDA-Maryland's guardianship of Mount Clare Museum House. Invitations to follow. See Below	
1 December (Friday)	Dames Day (Baltimore Committee)	

2018

4 January	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10:00 AM
1 March	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10: 00 AM
5 April	NSCDA-MD Board Meeting	10:00 AM
SPRING 2018	Charlotte Duer Brice Lecture	TBA

Mount Clare Museum House Site Manager

1500 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21230

director@mtclare.org

410-837-3262 ext. 103

Twitter: [@mtclaremuseum](#)

Website: mtclare.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mtclaremuseum>

NSCDA Website: www.nscda.org National

Please join us for the Celebration of 100 Years of the National Association of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland as Curators of the historic Mount Clare Mansion.

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Mount Clare Museum House and Stable

At the Museum House

10:30 a.m. Tours with docents

11:30 a.m. Remarks by distinguished guests

FORMAL INVITATIONS WILL FOLLOW IN THE MAIL

At the Mount Clare Stable

12 Noon to 2 p.m.

Luncheon at the Stable and a Champagne Toast

SAVE THE DATE

2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE COLLECTION AT MOUNT CLARE MUSEUM HOUSE

TALBOTS AT CROSS KEYS (ONLY)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH

2 TO 7 PM

(COME EARLIER IF IT IS MORE CONVENIENT)

PLAN TO BE THERE TO SUPPORT OUR COLLECTION

(10% OF ALL PRE-TAX SALES GO TO THE COLLECTION)