Colonial Crier

Texas Society Colonial Dames 17th Century
Summer 2026 Edition
Vol. XX, No. 3

State President's Message



Greetings from (right next to) Wawel Castle in Kraków, Poland! I hope y'all are having a great last meeting/summer break! We have some great activities coming up, so let me run you through them:

In August, we'll be holding our **Fall Board of Management Meeting** at the Hilton Garden Inn in Temple, along with several other lineage societies. Our meeting is scheduled for Friday evening, August 14th, and Saturday afternoon, August 15th. Only state Board members are eligible to vote, but all members are welcome to join us for this meeting, fellowship, and informative workshops. The hotel reservation link is forthcoming and will be sent to you by State Corresponding Secretary, Lori King, as soon as we get it. Once you get the link, be sure to review the dates at the top of the page when you make your reservation and update them to the dates you wish to stay. Why? The other lineage societies will be meeting all that week so look at their schedules and only choose the nights that you will actually be attending meetings. You will need to click on "Edit Stay" (located at the far right) to edit your dates as required. Look for the call to BOM to go out with a full schedule and meals soon.

There will be a **National Genie Session** from August 1st - 15th, so please plan to have your supplemental applications in by the July 15th cutoff date. The next session after that will be in January of 2027, so the cutoff date will be December 15th. REMEMBER: December is a crazy month for the US Postal Service, so give yourself some extra time to make the deadline for this last session of the Eisenman Administration.

If you are planning on going to the National Society Colonial Dames XVIIC Fall Board of Management September 30th-October 3rd, you will find the call on the National website. Go to www.colonialdames17c.org, log in, click "Dashboard," and then select "National News" under "Resources." Like our Board of Management meeting, all members can attend, but only BOM members can vote. The cutoff date for registrations is September 7th.

Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter will be celebrating its **75th anniversary** in November, with a lovely luncheon. You can be sure that I'll be there with bells on! If I'm missing any other chapter anniversaries and celebrations, please let me know so we can let the membership know! We love to have a party together!

In November and December, we will all have our traditional holiday get-togethers with our chapters and families. Please remember that many reports and all donations will be due by the end of the calendar year. Turn these in on time if you want us all to celebrate your achievements together during State Conference. **2027 State Conference** will find us returning to the Conference Center in Grapevine, Texas (where we

Cont'd next page. . .

celebrated in February 2024). The dates are set for February 24th-27th, so save those dates! More information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

I did want to take a minute to brag on the Texas Society's turnout at the **April 2026 National Conference**. We were the sponsors of the **America 250! Banquet**, and we had such a fun time together! Kudos to Banquet Co-Chairs and Honorary State Presidents Marsha Richards and Chris Womack for putting together such beautiful centerpieces and favors. And a BIG THANK YOU to all the Texas Ladies who showed up early to help us set up. We have gotten so many notes of thanks and requests for the praline makers (Lamme's Candies, in case anyone asks, with stickers that say "From deep in the ❤ of Texas") that I can't even keep up!

Many of you heard that we were unable to seat a fifth member of the Nominating Committee at the National Conference in April. We have not received instructions from National on how the conference will proceed next April, but rest assured that I will update you (via Lori King) as soon as I receive any information. In the meantime, I know of four candidates from Texas, and I ask that you send them your prayers and support as we wait for our instructions.

That's it from me, Ladies! I will send you more news as soon as I return to our beloved state. Keep an eye on your inboxes for emails from the Texas Society, and I look forward to seeing y'all in August in Temple!

Best, *Charlie*

p.s. Don't forget to support our charity, Day1Bags.org, either through buying state items, through donating to the raffle, through buying tickets to the raffle in August or February, or through monetary donations sent to State Treasurer, Kay Bakken! I hope to give them a wonderful check next year!

p.p.s. The Texas State Room at the National Society CDXVIIC House will need new shutters soon. Please keep the State Room Fund and the State Conference Fund in mind when you are putting together the chapter donations for this year!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS LINK FOR FALL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AUGUST 14-15 IN TEMPLE, TX

hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=TPLGIGI&arrivalDate=2026-08-11&departureDate=2026-08-14&groupCode=LIN826&room1NumAdults=2&displayCurrency=USD&aarpRate=

We are meeting the afternoon/evening of August 14th and the morning of the 15th at the Hilton Garden Inn, Temple, TX. We will have a dinner Friday and a breakfast Saturday. More details coming soon!

"Shine Together as a Family"

STATE DIRECTORY ORDER FORM

The 2025-2027 State Directory, including the Revised Bylaws and Standing Rules, is a valuable resource for all Texas Dames. The Directory includes contact information for all National Officers & Chairmen, State Officers & Chairmen, Chapter Presidents & Officers, and every member of the Texas Society. Do you want to know if another Texas member shares your ancestor or might have proved your Heraldry/COA ancestor? You can find that information in the State Directory!
Now you can order these fantastic books until 15 January 2027! Directories will be printed in sets of ten.

The price for pickup at a state meeting is $20.00, or a mailed copy is $28.
(Select your purchase option below)

☐ **I want to pick up the Directory at a state meeting**
☐ **Please mail the Directory to me at the address below**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: $ _____

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State & Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to **TSCDXVIIC** and write "**State Directory**" in the memo line. Mail this form and your check to:
Kay Bakken, State Treasurer
9667 North U.S. Highway 183
Gonzales, TX 78629-5160



First Vice President
Janet Hicks

Fall Workshops and BOM

The Fall Workshops and Board of Management Meetings will be held in Temple, TX on August 14th and 15th. Workshops will take place on Friday afternoon with the Board of Management meeting on Saturday morning. More information on hotel reservations and registration will be emailed to members later this summer. Any member can attend the meetings and Board of Management members are highly encouraged to attend. The Board of Management consists of state officers, honorary state presidents, chairmen of state committees, chapter presidents, and any elected National officers, honorary National officers, and National chairs who are members of the Texas Society.

Workshops are an important part of the Fall Meetings and State Conference. Past workshops have included preparing chapter leadership, understanding new processes, overcoming application and heraldry hurdles, and ideas for engaging members. If you have ideas for new workshops or ones you would like repeated, please email me at jehicks.tx@gmail.com.

I hope to see you in August!

2027 STATE CONFERENCE BENEFACTOR FUND

Our State Conference is a vital means of support for our Society by offering us a place to foster friendships, exchange ideas, learn new things, and be a part of the projects that benefit our communities and our country. Your contributions to the Conference Benefactor Fund help the Texas Society provide everyone with a higher quality conference experience. The names of our contributors are published in the Conference Program. Fill out the Conference Benefactor order form and mail it to State Treasurer, Kay Bakken.

Chaplain
Martha Ginn



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as State Chaplain. One of the great pleasures of this office is to send birthday cards to those Dames who have reached the age of 90. I have mailed more than 35 cards during the last year. CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND CHAPTER CHAPLAINS, if you have a member who is turning 90 or who is in her 90's, we would love to send a birthday card from our society. Please email me her name, current address, and birthdate, and I place that name on my list.

Also, as your Texas State Chaplain, my duty is to record the passing of our Dames and send sympathy cards to the family and the chapter. CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND CHAPTER CHAPLAINS, please notify me as soon as possible as you find the information about the passing of your chapter members. Often chapters "lose" contact with members who are over 95 years old since they do not pay dues. Sometimes the names do not even appear on the Official Report due January 1. As soon as the chapter learns of a passing of a Texas Dames, please notify me with her name and death date. Then I can find her obituary.

Each year, the State Chaplain prepares for the Hour of Remembrance at the State Conference. The State Chaplain also prepares the Memorial Book which includes a picture of the Dames and their obituaries. What a special remembrance for me and you as a Texas Dame. However, I would like to have the information about the passing rather quickly rather than waiting for that final report each January so that I may send sympathy cards to families and chapters and prepare the Memorial Book and Hour of Remembrance with care and consideration for those Dames whom we want to remember and love.

Finally, Chapter Chaplains may give invocations, blessings, and benedictions for meetings when possible. A wonderful resource is a publication available from the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century website: *In Reverence: Rituals and Prayers.*

marginn@sbcglobal.net
806-789-8730



Recording Secretary
Barbara Glodt

Corresponding Secretary
Lori King



Fall BOM/Workshop Reporting

The Temple Fall Board of Management and Workshop Meeting will be here before you know it (August 21-22).

Committee Chairs, those of you planning to attend the **Fall BOM** should plan to give a brief report on your **goals** for the upcoming year. If you are not attending, chairs file a report by sending it to the State Recording Secretary. Reports should be sent electronically in a Word document using the Chairs Template OR included in the body of your email. Chair reports are limited to three minutes, so please be concise. (Be sure to include your committee's name.)

State Officers, you are required to present a report, if present, or file a report, if you are absent. (There is no time limit.)

Chapter Presidents, you do *not* report at the Fall BOM. Those reports are given at the State Conference in February 2027.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call: 806-774-0608.
barbaraglodt@hotmail.com

This officer shall conduct the correspondence of the State Society and shall prepare and email notices as required by the State President or the Board of Management.

The Corresponding Secretary also serves as Editor of the state *Colonial Crier* newsletter.

Not all chapters will have a separate Chapter Corresponding Secretary. If they do, the duties of this position will be stated in the chapter bylaws. Usually, these duties will center around communication with the chapter members. The Chapter Corresponding Secretary may maintain a membership roster of the chapter with all forms of contact information, and this might include an email distribution list so that she can disseminate pertinent information to the members at the request of the Chapter President. There are no year-end reports that she must file.

EDITOR NOTE: Deadline for articles for the 2026 Winter Colonial Crier Newsletter is **November 15**. Looking forward to receiving articles and photos of what chapters have been involved in since the prior newsletter as well as articles from our state officers and state committee chairs! The State President and Editor reserve the right to edit for fit, accuracy & redundancy.





Organizing Secretary
Anna Weil

Strong chapters celebrate their members.

As we celebrate this historic birthday of our country, let's consider ways we can celebrate our chapter members and contribute to the health and vibrancy of our chapter.

Informal gatherings outside of chapter meetings are a good way to stay in touch with members and allow us to learn more about each other. We can plan social activities such as backyard barbeques, pool parties or any informal get-together which is fun and welcoming. It can be a simple coffee meet-up or an interesting teatime with colonial teas and goodies. Hybrid meetings are also a great way to include your members who cannot come to meetings due to work schedules or distance.

Other themes for gatherings could include "Who was your colonial ancestor?" where each attendee presents 5 facts about their ancestor and "Family Heirloom" where each person brings a cherished family heirloom and has 3 minutes to tell a story about that family member and their possession. These ideas would also work for a chapter meeting if time were available.

We should celebrate the members of our chapter all through the year. Fun cards that express our thinking of members we may not see are a great way to remember our members and help them continue to feel a part of our chapters. Quick phone calls are another avenue to stay in touch and keep the bonds of chapter friendship and membership strong. Emails and texts also keep chapters ties alive.

There are many moments in our members' lives that may be celebrated. Welcoming our newest members with a short membership ceremony and announcement via chapter email and newsletter is helpful for all of the chapter to learn more about new members. Celebrating verification of supplementals is also encouraging. Publishing birthdays and years of membership in Colonial Dames 17th Century lets members feel special and allows others to learn more.

Consider having a section in your chapter newsletter celebrating individual members with a "Member Spotlight". You can highlight a member with a short biography and why she joined Colonial Dames 17th Century. These biographies could also be posted on your private chapter Facebook page. Also plan to send cards or print a section in your chapter newsletter about life events such as new children or grandchildren, retirement and job changes or promotions. These are just some possibilities of good news that can be shared.

Let's celebrate our members and strengthen our ties of friendship. This keeps our chapters strong.

State President's Motto:

Shine Together As a Family



Treasurer
Kay Bakken

Chapters,

I am now honored to be serving as the State Treasurer through the end of this state administration's term.

You may include National and State dues in the same check. All checks should be payable to "TX Society CDXVIIC".
State membership dues are $10.00 for both adults and juniors (18 to 35 years)
National membership dues are $35.00 for adults and
$17.50 for juniors
Senior Members over 95 years of age who have been
active members for a total of 15 years or more are exempt
from paying State and National dues. The Chapter decides whether Senior members pay Chapter dues.

State Supplemental fee continues to be $2.00 and mailed to this officer.

The TSCDXVIIC Procedure Manual, available at the State website, has Chapter Treasurer information starting on p. 46, which provides processes and deadlines for treasurer duties as well as all other activities relating to the Texas Society.

Chapter Treasurers, please collect all donations to State or National projects made by your chapter or individual members in your chapter, and send these donations to the State Treasurer for processing. Any donations sent directly to the National Society will not be credited to your Chapter or member. The Chapter, members, and State Society will only receive recognition for donations processed through the State Treasurer.

If you have any questions, please email bakken.kay@gmail.com, or call 830-857-0408.

Chapter treasurers are doing a great job with the new website!! Thank you.



Registrar
Kimberley Calaway



With our hot weather approaching, this might be a great time to stay inside and catch up on some genealogy, do a little recruiting for your chapter, or get a supplemental application submitted for the August Volunteer Genie session. **The deadline** for the August session is July 15.

Please remember to send me, and our State Treasurer/Kay Bakken the application remittance form when you submit a membership or supplemental application. The National website is still very challenging for us to keep records of approved applications.



Historian
Belinda Brouette

What an absolute joy it is to serve our Society as your State Historian! If you're new to the role of Chapter Historian—welcome aboard! You are stepping into a meaningful position that preserves our collective memory, and I'm thrilled to support you. To get started, take a little time to review the National Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Handbook, along with your own State and Chapter Bylaws. You'll find everything you need on the National website.

Now for something truly exciting—did you know our Society has an incredible collection of original historical documents and signatures? It is a treasure trove of our nation's past! The National Society is always thrilled to accept donations of original documents, books from the Colonial era, or signatures from Colonial Governors.

If you have something special to share, please reach out first via email for approval. If you're looking for a meaningful way to contribute, donations to the Historic Documents Fund go a long way. These help us preserve what we have and acquire more historical gems. Contributions should go through your Chapter Treasurer using the Annual Donation or Special Gift forms.

Let's talk programs! Every meeting is a perfect opportunity to spotlight our rich history. Whether it's a member presentation or a guest speaker, historical programs help keep our legacy alive. There are over **150** programs and manuscripts available on the National website—yes, really! Topics range from colonial cooking and court systems to gardens, medicine, music, crafts, famous people, and even ghosts and witchcraft! Just log into the site, "Dashboard">"Resources">"Programs".

Consider hosting your own essay contest for school age children —it's such a fun and meaningful way to get your community involved and inspire young minds.

Keeping a history of your Chapter is SO important! Some still love scrapbooks (and they're charming!), but digital records are now the way to go. Save photos, articles, and documents to a flash drive—it is durable, portable, and easy to pass along to the next Historian. Be sure to keep items like award records and marking details.

One more gem for you: check out the *Services to Commemorate Historical Patriotic Days 2016* booklet on the Historian General's page. It is full of meaningful rituals you can use at your meetings to honor national holidays—perfect for adding a special touch to your gatherings.
If the President General or State President visits your Chapter, please send along photos, newspaper articles, or any keepsakes. I'm putting together a digital scrapbook to present to her at the end of her term, and I would *love* to include your Chapter's contributions!

If you ever have a question, an idea, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to reach out! I'm so excited for the year ahead and can't wait to see all the incredible work you'll do.

Financial Examiner
Janet Kres



This Officer sent out the new Report of Internal Financial Review Committee form to all the chapter presidents and treasurers as they were listed on the National website.

If you have not received the new form, please email me, and I will email you one!



SAVE THE DATE FOR

GOVERNOR THOMAS HINCKLEY CHAPTER'S 75TH CHAPTER ANIVERSARY ON NOVEMBER 14, 2026

GUEST SPEAKER IS DOUGLAS RICHARDSON

Douglas Richardson is the author of "Royal Ancestry," "Magna Carta Ancestry," "Plantagenet Ancestry" and many other genealogical books, publications, and articles.

Please contact Kimberley Smith Calaway if you are interested in joining us for this wonderful program. The cost will only be for the luncheon at around $48. We already have over 50 ladies on our reservation list, but we can possibly accommodate up to 100. Seating will be limited.
The meeting/luncheon will be held at Ridglea Country Club in Fort Worth, TX, and will start at 11:30 am.

We extend an invitation to all members, and prospective members of the NSCDXVIIC.

Contact: Kimberley Smith Calaway at aapcolonialdames17c@gmail.com

Colonial Heritage, Research, and Records Committee Robin Carter, Chair



It is never too early to brainstorm ideas and prepare for Colonial Heritage Month in October! Whether you are planning a simple chapter meeting or launching a new effort with the local library, school, and government, the scale of your project is entirely up to you. The point is ***remembrance*** of our colonial ancestors in terms of their virtue, courage, and patriotism that led to an enduring legacy which we can keep alive through educating ourselves and others today.

I encourage you to start brainstorming as many ideas as you can think of, then pare down to a list that works best for your chapter. Just a few topic ideas you might include, but are obviously not limited to:

- Food – early preservation methods, crops, seasonal harvest feasts, recipes
- Music and Dance – traditional English jigs, early tavern songs, composers
- Fashion and Textiles – clothing, natural dyeing process, dress codes
- Apprenticeships and Trades – blacksmithing, printing, shoemaking
- Literature – historical narratives, diaries/journals, poetry
- Convergence of Cultures – Native Americans, Western Europeans, Non-English Europeans
- Foundational Moments – The Mayflower Compact, The Founding of Pennsylvania, Early Printing Presses

Using the idea(s) you decide upon, the sky is the limit for the type of activities you may plan for in creating an enjoyable, inventive, interactive way to promote our organization's goal of fostering community interest in colonial history, educating our country's youth, and commemorating the noble and heroic deeds of our ancestors.

Unite your talents today to collaborate and prepare for an extraordinary Texas Colonial Heritage Month in October 2026!

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The Outrageous Pineapple Craze

In the 17th and 18th centuries, pineapples were the ultimate global status symbol. They were so rare and expensive that people did not eat them. Because the tropical fruit was incredibly rare and difficult to transport without rotting, a single pineapple could cost the modern equivalent of $8,000 or more. Instead, wealthy Europeans rented them for the night to carry around at parties to show off their incredible luck, wealth, and powerful shipping connections.

Did You Know?

- You could rent a single pineapple for just one evening.
- People hired security guards to protect their rented fruit from thieves.
- Having a pineapple meant you were at the top of high society.
- Kings and queens paid artists to paint portraits of them holding a pineapple.


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Credentials Committee Marsha Richards, Chair

Each chapter should send a State Conference Credentials form to the State Credentials Chair to be received by **February 3, 2027**. The directives and form can be found in the 2025-27 State Officers and State Committee Directives packet and will be emailed to all chapter presidents by this chair this Fall. Please note: the revised form no longer requires the signature of the chapter treasurer, and it can be emailed or snail mailed to this chairman!! An email verifying receipt of the form will be sent; if you don't receive a verification email, reach out to this chairman ASAP. Chapters not submitting a credentials form will be contacted periodically as the deadline approaches.

Delegates must be elected at a chapter meeting prior to submission of the form. Use your most current chapter membership numbers when completing the form.

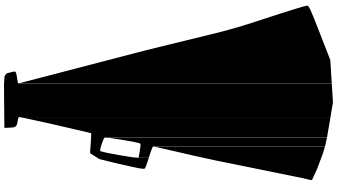
Please remember that Delegates by Virtue of Office are "extra" votes; use your total membership number when calculating the number of chapter delegates you need to elect, regardless of the number of Delegates by Virtue of Office you have. And these Delegates by Virtue of Office cannot be one of your elected delegates.

Marking & Preservation of Historic Sites Committee Marsha Richards & Laura Dahlberg, Co-Chairs

The first phase of our Society's Object is "to aid in the preservation of the records and the historic sites of our country." Also, our President General has the marking of natural sites as one of her goals for 2025-27. This committee is tasked with maintaining a record of historic sites marked by Texas Chapters for future reference. Preservation includes repairs, painting, relocation of a marker, enhancement of the surrounding landscape, gardening activities, and volunteer hours spent in restoration.

At the 2026 State Conference, the Marking Fund was amended to establish it as a designated fund and the annual budget allocation was increased to $400. Another change made was the removal of the stipulation that the money in the Marking Fund had to be used for a state-sponsored marking. Now, any chapter who wishes to mark an historic site may request a grant from the Fund in the amount of $400 to help defray the cost of marking. This request can be made after receiving approval from National to mark and is made to the state chairs.

Lineage Support Committee Mary Johnson, Chair



Calling all Chapter Registrars!

Do you have Prospective Members needing help on applications?

Do you have applications that need help resolving issues?

Do you need someone to review an *application before* it *goes to the Registrar General?*

The past year the Lineage Support Committee has successfully helped several chapters gain new members. I would really like to see continued growth for our chapters.

I would like to challenge every chapter to have a growth in membership during the Mullenweg term. I know that many have struggled the past years to get applications completed and then verified. The Lineage Support Committee is ready to help you get those applications completed. We will review applications for you before you send them in for verification. Organizing Chapters, let us help you get the applications done. Chapters that are struggling with low membership, let us help you. Our team of chair and area vice chairs are ready to help.

Send any inquiries/requests for help to: lineagesuppCD17c@gmail.com. We are here to work for you!

Page Committee
Sue Berry, Chair

Call for Pages for the 2027 State Conference!

Are you going to 2027 State Conference in Grapevine, TX?

Do you enjoy meeting everyone and helping out? Do you like insignia pins?

There is no age limit! You can sit if monitoring one door position, and do not need to serve for the entire two days! If many pages sign up, you can serve only part of the time!

All you need is a white outfit (dress or skirt and blouse, sorry no pants), white shoes, white gloves and a smile! We provide the sash.

A State Page insignia pin is available if you serve. A very easy pin to earn!

If interested, please contact me at sjfbarry@gmail.com





Reports Committee
Vene Gregg, Chair

A reminder to chapter presidents that it is never too early to start gathering information for your end-of-year reports. Time taken to review the report forms that will be sent in December is time well spent. All the events and projects involving your chapter deserve credit, but the events and projects go unnoticed unless they are reported.

The same forms used in 2025 will be used in 2026. Please remember that we no longer report on the Pocahontas Project, but there are twenty working reports to be completed. Keep in mind that the reports should be mailed by December 15th to avoid the holiday mail crush. The deadline for the State Reports Chair to receive the reports packet from the chapter presidents is *January 2, 2027*.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if I can be of help to you. I am looking forward to receiving your reports and forwarding full packets to the State Chairs.

Texas Society History Award

The Texas Society History Award may be given to a person who has performed outstanding work in historical preservation in the area of literature, art, or music. Although this is a Texas Society CDXVICC award, the recipient does not have to be a member of The Society but shall be someone who deserves our recognition for their part in preserving our United States, Texas or Colonial history. The State Historian and State President select the award recipient and may form a committee of members to assist in the selection. This does not have to be an annual award.



Public Relations Committee
Lori King, Chair

This committee is dedicated to helping chapters and state societies educate members and communities about objectives and accomplishments within Colonial Dames 17th Century.

Positive communication is important to the success of our organization. Many who are qualified to join have never heard of our group or understand why they would want to join. Proactive communications are essential to success in promoting public awareness and increasing membership. Start with your own chapter. Members who are informed feel more connected and become more active. Active members are more likely to bring in new members. Take the time to evaluate the tools you are using to make all members feel important. Do you have chapter newsletters, yearbooks, emailed meeting reminders, phone trees and Facebook pages? Are you using the National pamphlets, Junior Membership pamphlets, or pamphlets created by your state or chapter? Are you meeting at times convenient to working women? Today's members and prospective members are busy, and club work does not play the role that it did for their mothers and grandmothers. Are we making our organization meaningful to them? These communication tools are also vital at the state level. When the members leave their chapter and state meetings, do they feel that they have learned something and have had fun?

Promoting CDXVIIC to the public by reaching out to local news outlets can be difficult. Make sure that you are professional and persistent with well-written press releases. Are your articles and photographs showing your work in the community? Print and broadcast media are not your only avenues. Social media is also an important tool to consider with websites and Facebook. Strive to make an impression on everyone in your community. Distribute brochures at historical societies, libraries, historic homes, and museums. Be visible in parades, community festivals, genealogical conferences, and in schools. Remember that all that we do is a form of public relations.











Don't miss out on the fun with your fellow TX State Dames!

From the Chapters

Ark & Dove Chapter



This spring Lydia Pierce, our Community Outreach chair, collected items donated by chapter members. Members came to her house to pack kits to give to CASA. The name CASA is for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a Williamson County program that empowers community volunteers to advocate for children who have experienced abuse or neglect. Lydia's team put crayons, activity books, games, and toys into plastic bags and ended up with 87 kits. The kits were delivered to the center in Georgetown. Pictured to the left of Lydia are Nancy Hannaman and Linda Fisher.



Our speaker for the February meeting was chapter member Sylvia Forbes who gave an informative presentation on the Science Revolution in the Seventeenth Century. She described discoveries in chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, physics and biology. The telescope, thermometer, microscope, barometer, pendulum clock, and air pump were among the many inventions of the time and most importantly, the process of the scientific method was defined in the 1600s. So many of these discoveries we take for granted today, but they made a significant impact on 17th century life.

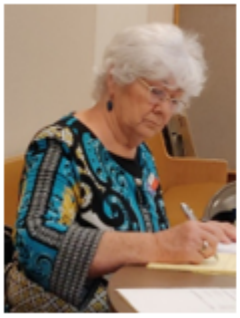


The chapter's oldest member, Barbara MacManus, turned 97 on Mar 23rd. Several members went to her home in celebration. Barbara joined Colonial Dames 17th Century in 2002. Pictured behind Barbara are (l to r) Sue Wyly, Maggie Kirkendoll, Rene Piotrowski, Janet White and Susan Goldsworthy.



Kevin Klaus, an archivist, who has worked over 12 years at the Texas General Land Office, gave a program at our May meeting on Pioneer Women of Early Texas. Not only did he talk about the value of land in the early days of Texas, and how a person could obtain land, he also gave snapshots of the lives of several women important in those early days, including Jane A. Long, Mary Austin Holly, Ottile Fuchs Goeth, Susana Dickinson, Francita Alvarez, Henrietta King, Mary A. Maverick, Matilda Lockhart and Delilah Stalling.

Ark & Dove Chapter (contd.)



Darla Regner, chapter Librarian, used chapter funds to purchase a book Vital Records of Billerica, Massachusetts to the Year 1850 and donated it to the national library on behalf of Ark & Dove.

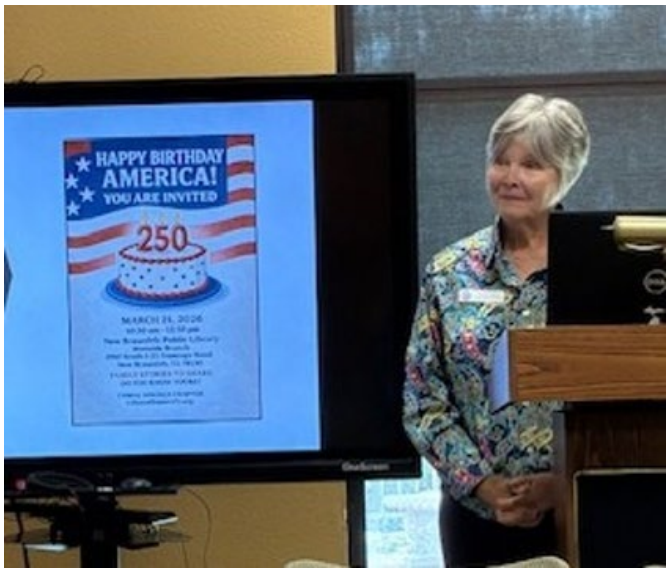
Comal Springs Chapter

COMAL SPRINGS HOSTS GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

For their celebration of the America 250 semi quincentennial, Comal Springs Chapter CDXVII is promoting family history research through a series of genealogical workshops in local libraries. Members of Comal Springs take turns telling family anecdotes that are both entertaining and educational. Each story lasts approximately five minutes and three are presented each session. The public is invited to inquire as to methods of finding their own family history. They are encouraged to begin a family tree with the template provided. Membership in lineage societies and Colonial Dames is discussed. Participants are encouraged to preserve history by documenting their own traditions and backgrounds--knowing one's history leads to pride in one's heritage. The workshops have been well-received. They have motivated the public to document their memoirs and adopt genealogy as a hobby. They also act as a recruiting tool. Workshops are planned for the public libraries of Wimberley, Canyon Lake, New Braunfels, San Marcos, and Bulverde. Pictured is Cindy Linton.

For information, contact Kay Bakken, President Comal Springs Chapter CDXVIIC. bakken.kay@gmail.com





Cross Trails Chapter

The Cross Trails January chapter meeting attendees enjoyed our Texas Society Honorary State President, Chris Womack, as she presented a fun and informative program on the surprising history of Colonial Christmas. Recording Secretary Charlene Jandik presented a program on Suffragettes, their history and their jewelry. This educational slideshow culminated in the opportunity to craft your own suffragette bracelet, acquire a completed bracelet and admire Suffragette pieces from Charlene's antique jewelry collection. New member Haley Wilton was sworn in, and 35 favorite cereals were collected for Camp Hope PTSD Foundation and delivered by newest member Haley Wilton and her grandmother, Veteran's Service Co-Chair, Mary Betty James.

Chapter member and State Heraldry & COA Chair Lori King presented an informative ZOOM meeting on "Processing Your COA Applications" in February. We also celebrated Valentine's Day together and honored our New and Prospective members at a delicious Brunch outing. Members cleaned headstones in Montgomery at Odd Fellows Cemetery under the guidance of our Chapter Parliamentarian and Navasota/Grimes County Community Service Award winner Kathy Cave Wells. Cross Trails is Making a Difference in our Community!

The month of March brought our Dames together for our Spring Fling event to enjoy the beautiful Azalea Trails at Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens in Houston with a delicious lunch at Vibrant in Memorial afterwards. A wonderful three days were spent in San Antonio at the 88th Annual State Conference of the Texas Society Colonial Dames XVII Century. Fond memories were made with the 15 ladies from our chapter who were in attendance.

April was enjoyed by preparing for the Honor Flight Houston celebration. A fun "Mail Call" letter writing session describing our appreciation for the service of our honored Veteran's on their Honor Flight Houston was spent over lunch, and later the letters were delivered to those brave veterans by Diana and Janet Wallner. Return home celebrations at the airport were also included for these heroes.

Cross Trails Chapter Dames shine together as a family while preserving our roots as we embrace the future!



From L-R LaVonne Theiss, Kay Miller-Campbell, Sharon Rollins, Jaime Pierce, Rebecca Kinder, Sandy Barber and Kathy Cave-Wells at Bayou Bend Gardens.

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Mary Betty James and new member and granddaughter, Haley Wilton, delivering cereal to Camp Hope.



New and Prospective Members Brunch at Mia Bellas restaurant with Jennifer McStravick, Margie Hec, Kathy Cotton-Windham, and Pat Williams.



The 88th Annual Texas State Conference with (standing) Cross Trails Chapter Members Denise Bennett, Sandy Barber, Bobbi Jo Meyer, Kay Miller-Campbell, Sheronna McMahon, Jaime Pierce, Sharon Rollins, Anna Weil, Kathy Cotton-Windham, Lori King, Kathy Schatte, Keri Garza, Jennifer Mc Stravick, Kathy Cave-Wells (sitting) Historian General Linda Kay Vandenberg White, President General Rebecca Eisenman, State President Charlie Mullenweg, Rebecca Kinder

Gov. Thomas Hinckley Chapter

The Governor Thomas Hinckley Chapter/Fort Worth had a lovely meeting on May 9, 2026. Treasurer General, Wanda Samek, presented a program on the life of Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday Nov 14, 2026. We will celebrate our chapter's 75th Anniversary, and Douglas Richardson will be our speaker. Everyone is invited to attend, and we have some space still available. Please contact Kimberley Calaway if you are interested in attending: aapcolonialdames@gmail.com





James River Chapter

The James River Chapter of Irving was honored to receive numerous awards at the Texas CDXVIIC State Conference. Our committed and hardworking ladies were pleased to be recognized for our Heraldry/COA Chapter activities and Lineage Support Committee, as well as National Defense, Public Relations, New Members by Application, Percentage of Membership Gained, and Approved Supplementals. Not only was our chapter recognized for its diligent effort, but also for the kindness and generosity of our members in receiving awards for many of our state and national donations.

For our May luncheon meeting, we met at the Woman's Club of Grand Prairie. President Robin Carter was pleased to share the fascinating and educational program, "Colonial Spirits: Women and Their Impact on Brewing in Colonial America," just one of the abundant program selections provided for our use on the national website. Everyone experienced a pleasant time of education, heritage, and fellowship.



L to R ~ Patty Lemoine, Gina Smith, Asha Smith, Dorothy Norred, Robin Carter, Rita Smith, Lisa Kight-Alcala, Colleen Petosa, guest Nancy Brown, and Connie Mize



John Champion Chapter celebrates 50 years!

On April 18, 2026, the John Champion Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a luncheon at the Junior League in Houston. It was chartered on April 17, 1976. The chapter was delighted to have Treasurer General Wanda Samek, State President Charleen Mullenweg, Honorary State Presidents Vene Gregg and Marsha Richards present at this meeting. Also in attendance were Janet Hicks (State1st Vice President), Lori King (State Corresponding Secretary), Anna Weil (State Organizing Secretary), Kay Bakkan (State Treasurer) and Kimberley Calaway (State Registrar) as well as many chapter members and guests.

Kay Wasden, CEO of Community of Resources Houston (CORHouston) was the guest speaker. She spoke about CORHouston's mission to provide essential supplies and other basic resources for students of HISD Title I schools so that students can focus on learning. These essential supplies can be hygiene kits, cleaning kits, shoes and socks or jeans and T-shirts. After a delicious lunch, President Johnson presented Kay with 50 hygiene kits, 25 for girls and 25 for boys, that the chapter had assembled. These hygiene kits were in toiletry bags provided by Day1Bags, the nonprofit that is State President Mullenweg's State Project. It was a great crossover between two charities who work to improve the lives of children and their families throughout Houston and Texas!



Front row: State President Charleen Mullenweg, Chapter President Mary Johnson, Treasurer General Wanda Samek
Second Row: Kimberley Calaway, Kay Bakken, Venn Gregg, Kay Wasden, Marsha Richards, Janet Hicks, Anna Weil, Lori King
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John Champion Chapter (cont'd)



Chapter's donation of hygiene bags to CORHouston on the shelf ready to go. CORHouston Notified the chapter that they have distributed all of them.

Joseph Underwood Chapter

The Joseph Underwood Chapter's annual field trip was held in March and was opened to the local DAR, DRT, and genealogy societies. The Pct. 4 bus took us to the Houston Ballet for the "behind-the-scenes" tour of their facilities, including performance and practice rooms. Especially interesting was their costume assembly and storage area! Following lunch at a local tearoom, we attended a short presentation at our local Warren's Nursery on spring flowers to plant to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.







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