

The Colonial Dames of America

Membership Eligibility List

Membership in The Colonial Dames of America is by invitation only.

The Society of Colonial Dames of America shall be composed entirely of women who are legitimately descended from some ancestor of worthy life who within the period beginning with the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia, May 13, 1607, and extending to, but not including, the Battle of Lexington April 19, 1775, served one or more of the thirteen original Colonies:

- a. By holding public office in the government thereof;
- b. By holding a commission in the colonial militia or regular British military serving in the American Colonies;
- c. By otherwise serving one or more of said Colonies in the capacities specified in the Eligibility List

A candidate must be judged worthy of becoming a member and be deemed acceptable by the Board of Managers.

Please look on the pages below for lists of the eligible services in each of the following colonies:

Carolina
Connecticut
Delaware
Georgia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts Bay
New Hampshire
New Haven
New Jersey
New Netherland
New York
Pennsylvania
Plymouth
Rhode Island
Virginia

Carolina

Chartered/Founded: 1663, Charter from Charles II to eight joint Proprietors
1664, North Carolina, separate charter
1670, South Carolina, separate charter

Eligible Capacities: (North and South Carolina):

Agent in Great Britain
Assistant-Judge of the Courts of Sessions and of Common Pleas
Attorney General
Cacique
Chancellor
Chaplain appointed by General Assembly
Chief Justice or Associate-Justice
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Rangers and in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-Colonial Boundaries
Constable
Deputy-Governor
Governor or Acting Governor
Judge of the Admiralty Court
Justice of the Peace
Landgrave
Lieutenant Governor
Lord Proprietor
Magistrate
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Member of the Council
Member of the General Assembly
Naval Officer, Collector of Customs
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Receiver-General of Quit Rents or Customs
Secretary or Deputy-Secretary
Sheriff
Surveyor-General
Treasurer

Connecticut

Chartered/Founded: 1636 Government established (first settlement 1635)

Eligible Capacities:

Founders (Thomas Hooker, John Haynes)

Members of the Commission to govern the Colony, appointed by Massachusetts, March 3, 1635/6 for one year:

Roger Ludlow
William Phelps
William Pyncheon
Henry Smith
John Steele
William Swayne
Andrew Ward
William Westwood

Assistant, Member of the Court of Assistants
Associate-Judge, County Court (Court of Common Pleas)
Attorney for the General Court
Chaplain appointed by General Assembly
Chaplain of Collegiate School (Yale College)
Chief-Judge or Associate-Judge, Supreme Court
Clerk of the Superior Court
Colonial Agent to the Court of England
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military and Naval Forces
Commissioner, Member of County Court, later called Justice of the Peace
Commissioner of Inter-Colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of the United Colonies of New England
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Commissioner to the New England Union
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754
Deputy to the General Court
Deputy Governor
Governor or Acting Governor
High Sheriff prior to 1700
Incorporator of the Colony under Charles II
Judge, Probate Court
Judge of Superior Court
Justice of the Peace
Justice of the Quorum in County Court
King's Attorney
Magistrate
Marshall
Member, Andros' Council

Member of the Council
Member of the Committee of the Pay Table
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Member of the Council of War
Member of the Seven Pillars
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of Collegiate School (Yale College)
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Representative, Member of the House of Representatives
Selectman

Delaware

Chartered/Founded: 1702 Separated from Pennsylvania in all local affairs, but under same Governor and Council until 1777

Note: Delaware had no separate government as a Colony or Royal Province until 1777. Its territory was part of New Netherlands, or the Province of New York, until 1682, - except from 1638 to 1655, - when it was under the control of Sweden. From 1682 to 1777, it was under the government of the Province of Pennsylvania, though it had a local Assembly.

Eligible Capacities:

Chaplain appointed by the Assembly
Collector of the Port of Newcastle, 1682-1774
Commissary (under Swedish rule at the South River)
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers of the Colonial Military and Naval Forces
Commissioner under the Duke of York
Constable
Factor and Secretary (under Swedish rule at the South River)
Governor (under Swedish rule at the South River) or Acting Governor
Magistrate
Mayor of Newcastle
Member of the Assembly of “the three lower counties of Pennsylvania”
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Sheriff

Georgia

Chartered/Founded: 1732 Charter

Eligible Capacities:

Agent in Great Britain
Assistant or Member of Council
Attorney General
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chief-Justice
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers of the Rangers and of the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-Colonial Boundaries
Constable
Customs Officer
Governor or Acting Governor
Judge of the Admiralty
Justice of a General Court
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of Commons House of Assembly
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Preacher of Election Sermons
President, Governor, Acting-Governor or Vice-President
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Register of the Court of Chancery
Secretary
Sheriff
Surveyor-General
Treasurer
Trustee for establishing the Colony of Georgia

Maine

Chartered/Founded: 1639 Charter from Charles I

Note: Unification of Main and Massachusetts was accomplished in 1692 by the Charter of William and Mary, whereby the Colonies of Massachusetts Bay and New Plymouth, and the Province of Maine, the territory of Sagadahock and the territory of Acadia were united under the name of Massachusetts Bay. After 1692 the separate eligibility list for Maine ceases; thereafter Maine and Massachusetts remained under one jurisdiction, until 1820.

Capacities:

Agent for Sir Ferdinando Gorges
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of the Court at Saco, 1636-1638
Constable

Deputy to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, between 1653 and 1679
Deputy to the General Court or General Assembly of the Province of Maine or the Province of Lygonia
Deputy-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor
Deputy Governor
Governor or Acting Governor
Judge of County Court and Sessions of the Peace (Associate or Magistrate of the Counties of Yorkshire and Devonshire)
Justice of the Peace
Lord Proprietor
Magistrate
Member of Council (Councilor, Magistrate, Assistant)
Member of Council under Gorges
 Chancellor to determine matter of Equity
 Deputy or Lieutenant Governor
 Marshal, the Military Officer
 Master of Ordnance, in charge of military stores
 President of the Board or Chief Magistrate
 Secretary
 Treasurer
Preacher of Election Sermons
President, Deputy-President
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Selectman
Sheriff

Maryland

Chartered/Founded: 1632 Patent, Charles I to George Calvert

Eligible Capacities:

Attorney General
Chancellor, Keeper of the Great Seal
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chief Justice
Commander of a County
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissary-General, Judge of Probate
Commissioned Officers in the Rangers or in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754
Governor or Acting-Governor
Judge of the Court of Admiralty

Justice of the Peace (Commissioner of a County, Justice of a County Court)
Justice of the Provincial Court
Lord of a Manor, prior to 1692
Lord Proprietor
Lord Proprietor's Agent, Receiver-General
Magistrate
Mayor of St Mary's City, prior to 1708
Member of the Continental Congress 1774- 18 April 1775
Member of the Council
Member of the Lower House of Assembly
Naval Officer or Collector of Customs
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Secretary
Sheriff
Surveyor General
Treasurer of the Eastern or of the Western Shore

Massachusetts Bay

[Chartered/Founded:](#) 1629 Charter

[Eligible Capacities:](#)

Advocate General
Associate Judge, Quarterly or Particular Courts
Attorney General
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of Harvard College
Chief Judge (or Justice) of Inferior Court of Common Pleas or General Sessions of the Peace
Chief Judge, Associate Judge, or Special Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature
Colonial Agent to the Court of England
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-Colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer
Commissioner of the County Court, prior to 1692
Commissioner of the United Colonies of New England
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754

Deputy Governor, Lieutenant Governor
Governor or Acting Governor
Judge of the County Court and the Sessions of the Peace, prior to 1692
Judge, Court of Admiralty
Judge, Probate Court
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of Andros' Council
Member of the Continental Congress 1774- 18 April 1775
Member of the General Court, House of Deputies or Representatives
Member of the Governor's Council (Assistant or Magistrate)
Member, provisional government known as the Council of Safety of the People and the Conservation of Peace, 1689 (after the fall of Andros)
Officers of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company
Preacher of Election Sermons
President and Deputy-President, 1686
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President of Harvard College
Selectman
Sheriff
Signer of the Portsmouth Compact of 1638
Solicitor-General

New Hampshire

Chartered/Founded: 1629 Grant to Capt. John Mason

Note: New Hampshire was under the control of Massachusetts Bay, 1641 to 1679, and known from 1643 to 1679 as Norfolk County, Massachusetts Bay.

Eligible Capacities:

Associate-Judge, Superior Court
Attorney General
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of Dartmouth College
Chief-Justice, Superior Court
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military and Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Constable

Delegate to the Albany Congress 1751
Deputy to Massachusetts General Court, 1641-1679-80
Deputy to the Assembly of New Hampshire
Governor or Acting Governor
Incorporators of the Province under Charles II
Judge of County Court and Sessions of the Peace (prior to 1679)
Judge, Court of Common Pleas
Judge, Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace
Judge, Probate Court
Justice of the Peace
Lieutenant Governor
Magistrate
Member of Andros' Council (Robert Mason, John Hincks)
Member of Council
Member of the Continental Congress 1774- 18 April 1775
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President of Dartmouth College
President, Deputy-President
Selectman
Sheriff of the Province
Surveyor-General

New Haven

Chartered/Founded: 1638, Settlements; plantation government of towns.
1665, Merged into Connecticut Colony

Eligible Capacities:

Founders: John Davenport, Theophilus Eaton

“The Seven Pillars” (Framers of the Constitution):

John Davenport
Jeremiah Dixon
Theophilus Eaton
Thomas Fugill
Matthew Gilbert
Robert Newman
John Punderson

Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Colonial Agent to the Court of England
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of the United Colonies of New England
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Constable
Deputy to the General Court
Deputy, Plantation Court
Deputy Governor
Governor (Called Magistrate from 1639 to 1643) or Acting Governor
Magistrate
Member, Council of War
Member, Governor's Council (Deputy-Magistrate, or Assistant)
Preacher of Election Sermons
Sheriff

New Jersey

Chartered/Founded: 1664, Deed to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Cartaret
1676, Division into East and West Jersey
1702, United to New York
1738, Separated from New York

Capacities:

Agent to England
Attorney General
Chancellor, and Masters of the Court of Chancery, after 1702
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of Queen's College (Rutgers University)
Chaplain of the College of New Jersey (Princeton College)
Chief Administer (Anthony Colve), and Commissioners (Nicholas Boes, Abram Ferdinand Van Zyll) of the Dutch Rule, 30 July 1673 to 9 February 1674
Chief-Justice or Associate Judge (Second Judge) of the Supreme Court, after 1702
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner for the Probate of Wills, after 1702
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Constable

Councilor Extraordinaire (from 1738)
Deputy Governor, Lieutenant Governor
Director-General and Vice-Director, under the Dutch
Governor or Acting-Governor
Governor, under Swedish rule
High Sheriff of County, before 1700
Judge of a County Court (Common Pleas and General Sessions), after 1702
Judge or Justice of Court of Oyer and Terminer
Justice of a County Court (Monthly Court or Court of Sessions) (1664-1702)
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of the Assembly (1668, 1675 et seq.)
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Member of the Provincial Court (Court of Assize, or Court of Common Right) (1664-1702)
Member, Andros' Council
Member, Governor's Council (Commissioner, Magistrate, Councilor)
Member, King's or Royal Council (1702 – 1738)
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of Queen's College (Rutgers University)
President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton College)
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President, Provincial Council (from 1738)
Proprietors of East and West Jersey, before 1702
Register, Principal Surrogate, or Surrogate of the Prerogative Court, after 1702
Secretary and Register of the Proprietors
Surveyor General
Surveyor General of Customs (from 1738)
Twelve Men (East Jersey, from 1682)

New Netherland

Chartered/Founded: 1614 Charter to New Netherlands Co. for four trading voyages; first trading post and fort 1614/15
1621, Charter to West India Co.
1624, First Settlements

Eligible Capacities:

Burgomaster of New Amsterdam
Colonial Agent to Holland
Colonial Secretary
Commissioned Officers of the Province

Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Constable
Council of Five
Director at Rensselaerwyck
Director-General of the Province
Eight Men
Fiscal of New Netherland
Inspector of Fur and Tobacco
Magistrate
Masters of the Orphans' Court, 1653-1664
Matron of Orphans
Matron of the Hospital
Member of the Director's Council
Member of the Vice-Director's Council
Members of the Orphans' Court at Fort Orange, 1652-1657
Midwife
Patroons
Preacher of Election Sermons
Receiver-General
Schout
Schout Fiscal
Schepens
Surveyor-General
The Nine Men
Twelve Selectmen
Vice-Director at Fort Orange
Vice-Director on the South River
West Indian Company officers having power in local government

New York

Chartered/Founded: 1664, New Netherlands taken by the British
1673, Retaken by the Dutch
1674, British rule restored

Eligible Capacities:

Associate or Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court
Attorney General
Auditor General
Chancellor and Masters of the Court of Chancery
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of King's College (Columbia College)

Chief Magistrate of Nantucket and Martin's (now Martha's) Vineyard, 1664-1691
Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court
Colonial Agent to England
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754
First Judge or Associate Judge, Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions
Governor or Acting Governor
High-Sheriff of Yorkshire, 1665-1680
Judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, 1683-1691
Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty
Justice of the Peace
Lieutenant-Governor, Acting-Governor
Lords and Proprietors of Manors, with Manorial rights
Magistrate
Mayor or Recorder of New York and Albany
Member of Andros' Council
Member of Dongan's Assembly
Member of Governor's Council
Member of Leisler's Council
Member of the Assembly
Member of the Continental Congress 1774- 18 April 1775
Member of the Court of Assize
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President of King's College (Columbia College)
Registrar and Principal Surrogate of the Prerogative Court
Sheriff
Surveyor-General

Pennsylvania

Chartered/Founded: 1681 Charter to William Penn
1623, First settlement by Dutch
1638, Swedish settlement, called New Sweden

Eligible Capacities:

Attorney General
Chancellor (Governor) and Masters of the Court of Chancery
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of the Academy of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania)
Chief Justice, Associate or Puisne Judge, Supreme Court
Collector of the Port of Philadelphia, 1682-1774
Colonial Judge (Member of the Governor's Council)
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissary-General
Commissioned Officers of the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner and Commissary under Dutch and Swedish rule
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of the Land Office
Commissioner of Treaties with French and Indians
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754
Deputy Governor, Lieutenant Governor
Directors and Governors under Dutch and Swedish rule
Governor or Acting-Governor
High-Sheriff
Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty
Judge or Commissioner of Oyer and Terminer
Judge, Court of Equity
Judge, Probate and Surrogate Court
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Mayors of Philadelphia, Lancaster and Bethlehem
Member of the Continental Congress 1774 – 18 April 1775
Member, City Council of Philadelphia, 1701 to April 18, 1775
Member, Governor's Council
Member, Provincial Council
Members of the Assembly
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the Academy of Philadelphia (University of Pennsylvania)
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
Proprietor of Pennsylvania
Register-General
Signer of William Penn's Great Charter
Surveyor-General

Plymouth

[Chartered/Founded:](#) 1620 Charter

Note: Plymouth Colony was merged into Massachusetts Bay Colony under the Charter of William and Mary, 1692, at the beginning of the administration of Sir William Phips

Eligible Capacities:

Agent to the Court of England
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of the United Colonies of New England
Constable
Deputy Governor
Governor or Acting Governor
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of Andros' Council
Member of the General Court
Member of the Governor's Council (Assistant or Magistrate)
Preacher of Election Sermons
Sheriff
Signer of the "Mayflower" Compact

Rhode Island And Providence Plantations

Chartered/Founded: 1638 Government established (first settlement 1636)

Eligible Capacities:

Arbitrators, Providence, 1640
Attorney General
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of College of Rhode Island
Chief Judge or Justice of Inferior Court of Common Pleas, or General Sessions of the Peace
Chief or Associate Judge, Superior Court of Judicature
Colonial Agent to the Court of England
Colonial Secretary
Colonial Treasurer
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Colonial Military and Naval Forces

Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Commissioner of Treaties with other Colonies
Commissioner to the United Colonies of New England
Constable
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754
Deputy to the General Court
Deputy Governor
General Recorder
Governor or Acting Governor
Incorporator of the Colony under Charles II
Judge (Moderator or Chairman), Aquidneck (Portsmouth), 1638-1640
Judge, Court of Equity, 1741-1743
Judge, Court of Vice Admiralty
Judge or Presiding Justice of County Court (Court of Common Pleas, or Quarter Sessions)
Justice of the Peace
Magistrate
Member of the Continental Congress 1774- 18 April 1775
Member, Andros' Council
Member, Committee or Council of War
Member, Governor's Council (Elder or Assistant)
Moderator and Commissioner to the Court 1652-1663
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the College of Rhode Island (Brown University)
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President, (1647-1662), Governor
Selectman
Sheriff
Signer of the Portsmouth Compact of 1638
Solicitor-General

Virginia

Chartered/Founded: 1606 Charter, to Virginia Company of London

Eligible Capacities:

Agent in Great Britain
Attorney General
Chaplain appointed by the General Assembly
Chaplain of the College of William and Mary
Commissary of the Bishop of London
Commissioned Officers in the Rangers and in the Colonial Military or Naval Forces
Commissioner of Inter-colonial Boundaries
Constable
Deputy Governor
Deputy Secretary
Enumerated on the First Muster at Jamestown 1624

Governor or Acting Governor
Inspector of Tobacco
Judge, Superior Courts of Law and Equity
Justice of the General Court
Justice of the Peace, i.e. Justice of a County Court
Lieutenant of a County
Lieutenant Governor
Magistrate
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775
Member of the First London Company
Member of the House of Burgesses
Naval Officer, Collector of Customs
Pocahontas
Preacher of Election Sermons
President of the College of William and Mary
President of the Continental Congress before 19 April 1775
President, or Member, of the Council
Receiver-General
Secretary of State
Sheriff
Surveyor-General
Treasurer