



# *the colonial dames of america*

## Ancestor Service Eligibility List

As outlined in the Society's bylaws, The 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.

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 Bis hop 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 Provincial 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 Netherland, 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 Maine 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.

## Eligible 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

### Eligible 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 - 9 Feb 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), aft. 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 Netherland 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 Netherland 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, 1741-7143
- 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