

the colonial dames of america



Thank You, Christine Rother!

By Anne Farley

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For many years, the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum has benefitted from the generous support of Honorary Member Christine (Chris) Rother who has graciously shared her time and talents both as a member of the Museum Committee and as a Collaborating Artist. From an initial watercolor she painted of the Museum façade almost thirty years ago to her delightful hand painted trays, and, more recently, decoupaged vases, Chris has created myriad beautiful works of art that are featured prominently in the Museum's Gift Shop.

It was Chris's father's cousin Elsie Trask, CDA President General 1970-1974, who first connected Chris with CDA and shared a photograph of the Museum's façade from which Chris painted her initial Museum watercolor. That watercolor, along with others Chris has painted, has been reproduced on Museum notecards, paperweights, and prints.



Chris was born in Vermont to a family with deep New York roots. Her mother was from Tuxedo Park, NY, and her grandfather was President and Chairman of Bankers Trust Company. Summers away from Vermont were spent in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. After graduating from the New York School of Interior Design, Chris continued to live and work in New York for Elisabeth Draper, whom the New York Times described as "one of the grande dames of decorating...". Chris married W. Klaus H. Rother, a bank executive with Crocker National Bank and Bank of New York in New York City. Later, the couple moved to Philadelphia where Klaus was a Vice President with PNC Bank. Chris continues to reside in Philadelphia.



Chris draws inspiration from the birds and animals of her native Vermont as well as from site-specific architectural ornamental elements. An artist from youth with skills enhanced by courses in illustration, she typically selects a theme – birds, family pets, musical instruments, etc. – and creates several related images.

She may work from photographs or refer to books. Chris maintains a workspace in her basement with a drafting table and lighting that simulates natural light. For finished creations, she works with watercolors, colored pencils, and water-based acrylics (for wooden items).

Chris creates her decoupaged vases (right), with individual elements painstakingly cut with small fingernail scissors from Japanese origami papers. Individual elements are then affixed to the vases and coated in several layers of Mod Podge, creating a lacquered finish.



In addition to her support of the Museum, Chris enjoys supporting the Hill-Physick House in Philadelphia and visits Vermont regularly where she has siblings. Although Chris has not travelled to NYC since the pandemic, when she is here, The Metropolitan Museum of Art is always on her list. We are so grateful for our collaboration with Chris and look forward to seeing her at the Museum in the future.

2025 Book Award Winners

THIS YEAR'S AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The Colonial Dames of America will honor its 2025 Book Award Recipients during the 2025 Book Reception on April 26th, part of the Annual Meeting Weekend. Gary Golio and E.B. Lewis, author and illustrator of *The Soldier's Friend* have graciously agreed to speak at the event. All literature enthusiasts are encouraged to attend for the presentation of this year's awards as well as to hear Mr. Golio and Mr. Lewis speak on their book. Thank you to the Book Award Committee for their dedication and tireless work throughout the year to select the 2025 recipients.

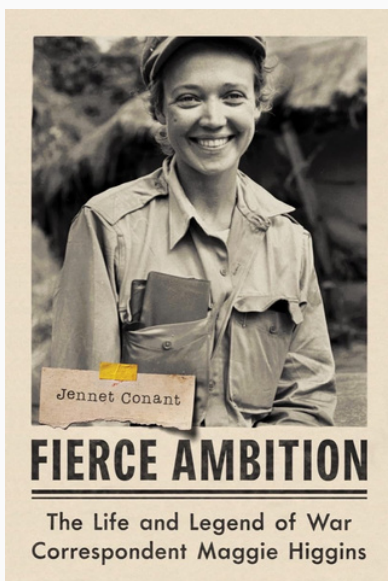
For more information on the Book Award or the Book Reception in April, please email comcoor@cda1890.org

AWARD

CITATION

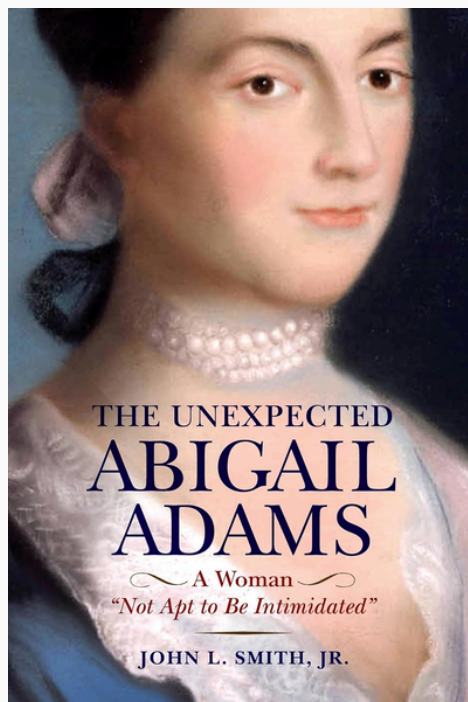
Fierce Ambition: The Life and Legend of War Correspondent Maggie Higgins

By: Jennet Conant



The Unexpected Abigail Adams: A Woman "Not Apt to be Intimidated"

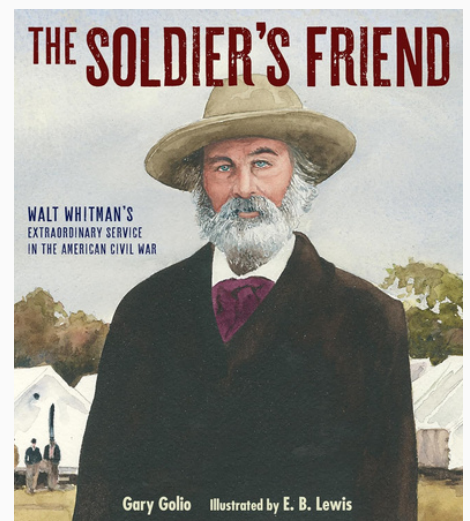
By: John L. Smith, Jr.



YOUNG READERS

The Soldier's Friend: Walt Whitman's Extraordinary Service in the American Civil War

By: Gary Golio
Illustrated: E.B. Lewis



Chapter Spotlight: Chapter XIII - Kansas City

75TH ANNIVERSARY TEA AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT

To celebrate their chapter's 75th Anniversary, Chapter XIII - Kansas City held a tea in 2024 at the lovely Mission Hills Country Club. Members enjoyed a formal tea with traditional sweets, savory treats, and sparkling wine. Guests were presented with a special enamel pin designed with the CDA logo to commemorate the occasion. The event also recognized Chapter XIII's Emerita members.



The John Wornall House, built in 1858, on what was then simply called "the road to New Santa Fe"



The Alexander Majors House, built in 1856 and one of only four surviving antebellum houses in Kansas City

The chapter tea then focused on its latest historic preservation project in support of local history. The chapter presented a check for \$2500 to the Wornall/Majors House Museums for the publication of their Historical Booklets project, which will bring the history of the museums to a wider public audience. The John Wornall and Alexander Majors houses are two of Kansas City's most historic structures, in the Greek Revival and Antebellum styles, respectively. Chapter XIII's support of hometown history is laudable, and will certainly help educate the public on these vestiges of our nation's past.

2024 Education and Scholarship Grant Results

BENCH DEDICATION AT AMERICAN VILLAGE

Members of Chapter XXXIX - Birmingham, AL met in December at the American Village in Montevallo, AL, for a festive Christmas lunch and dedication of two Colonial Dames of America benches, donated by the Society as a 2024 Education and Scholarship Grant. The benches will be placed in the newly refurbished Colonial Gardens just outside the replica of The Old North Church on the American Village Campus.

The dedication was held inside the church replica, and each CDA member present placed a long-stemmed rose on the bench in honor of her qualifying ancestor. For more project information on all the 2024 grants projects, view the [2024 Grant Updates eblast](#).



(L-R) Jamie Crockett, Marlea Foster, Kathy Peerson, Virginia Tucker, Connie Grund, Honey Taylor, Chapter President Cindy Speake, Laura Ramsay, Sue Ellen Lucas, Ann King, Shelley Clark, Julia Rowe, and Jane Johnson

CDA Anniversary Brooch

2024 85TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BROOCH

To celebrate the 85th anniversary of the public opening of the Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden this past year, The Colonial Dames of America offered a commemorative brooch designed by Shervin Hawley. Available only to CDA members, the brooch featured 40 faux aquamarine stones, one for each CDA chapter, with “CDA” and “1890” artfully interwoven through the lower branches.

Opened for pre-order on July 1st, the brooch was snapped up by members all throughout the year, with many ladies displaying their new CDA accessory at a variety of member events.

The sterling silver and 14k gold vermillion brooch was especially popular at the December Holiday Party in New York City, with many ladies adorning their festive attire with it.

This lovely brooch was an elegant way to commemorate a momentous anniversary for The Colonial Dames of America, commemorated each time a Dame chooses to accessorize.

For those who rue their missed opportunity, the CDA Headquarters has a handful of brooches left for those who act quickly.



**Parent Chapter members
Katherine Johnson and
Coco Hein sporting their
Anniversary Brooches at
the 2024 Holiday Party**

Upcoming Events

INTERNATIONAL TEA

Thursday, April 10, 2025, 3:00-4:30 PM
The Metropolitan Club of the City of Washington
Anderson Room
1700 H Street, N.W.

BOOK AWARD RECEPTION

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM
New York Society Library
Member's Room
53 East 79th St

ANNIVERSARIES CAMPAIGN: COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE UNVEILING

Sunday, April 27th, 2025 3:30 PM
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden
421 East 61st Street

GARDEN PARTY

Sunday, April 27, 2025, 4:00-6:00 PM
Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden
Entrance from 417 East 61st Street

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Monday, April 28, 2025, 10:00 AM -2:00 PM
Colony Club
564 Park Avenue



Watercolor by Lili Neuhauser

Share Your Stories

Have news to share? Chapter events or member activities? Send us an email at comcoor@cda1890.org
Pictures encouraged!

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