



**The National Society Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century
under authority of the Executive Council.**

Hereby grants this

CHARTER

to the

Crown Colony Chapter

**as a pledge of the good fellowship of the National Society and in recognition of the fraternal relations
engendered by our reverence for our heredity.**

Betsy Kuster

President General

Leslie Canavan

Organizing Secretary General

Dorothy Baumgartner

Recording Secretary General

Margaret Sopp

Registrar General

April 15, 2011

COLONIAL DAUGHTERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY IN RETROSPECT

The following document was found by me in the back of the Missouri Chapter Minutes Book when I began my first term as Secretary in 1982. I have been intending since the mid 1980s to retype and share it with our members. Seems like it just never got done! In our Chapter's 100th anniversary year, I have typed it exactly as I found it except for minor spelling/grammar corrections, leaving out the ByLaws which were originally included since our National ByLaws have been amended over the years and are produced in booklet form available to all members. There is no attribution or date on the original but it is a typed original, not a carbon copy; however in the Minutes of the first meeting of the REORGANIZED Missouri Chapter Number One in 1964 it is stated that Miss Acena Booth, reorganizing President, presented each member with a copy of this document. The Minutes Book begins in 1964 with the reorganization of Missouri Chapter Number One. Leslie Canavan, Chapter Secretary July, 2005

On May 2, 1896 a group of seven ladies, most all of them residents of the city of Brooklyn, County of Kings, State of New York, met in Brooklyn and certified a desire to form a corporation, "pursuant to the provision of an act entitled 'An Act Relating to Membership Corporations constituting Chapter 43 of the General Laws', passed by the Legislature of the State of New York, May 8, 1895, and of the several acts mandatory thereof and supplementary thereto."

The corporate name of said corporation, they said, is "Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century".

The objects of said corporation were stated as social and patriotic, and for the purpose of perpetuating among their descendants the memory of those brave and hardy men who assisted in establishing the Colonies of America and perilled [sic] their lives and interests in the various Colonial Wars from May, 1607 to December, 1699, and rendered other distinguished services, laying the foundations upon which the Republic of the United States of America was established; and for the collection and preservation of Historical Relics and Documents, and the placing of tablets to mark the places of historic interest relating to that period.

The territory in which the operations of said corporation were to be conducted was in the City of Brooklyn, and the principal office of said corporation was to be located in Brooklyn. The incorporators were Henrietta A. (Mrs. Harlan P.) Halsey, Sarah M. (Mrs. H. L.) Higgins, Isabella N. (Mrs. John F.) Talmage, Bertha H. (Mrs. Henry B.) Reed, Jennie M. (Mrs. William H.) Davol, Mary Alden (Mrs. Ansel L.) White, and Miss Rena I. Halsey. These also were the Directors of said corporation until the next annual meeting. On May 6, 1896, the Society received its charter or Certificate of Incorporation under the laws of the State of New York.

The CONSTITUTION of the SOCIETY, had for its PREAMBLE the following:

Whereas, Believing that it is desirable to organize a Society for the preservation of the memory of the Founders of the American Nation and for the commemoration of historical incidents of the Colonial period of American History. Therefore, the Society of the Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century shall be, and hereby is, instituted, by the descendants of those illustrious ancestors.

The principal colonies of the Seventeenth Century were: Virginia, Jamestown Colony, 1607; Massachusetts, Plymouth Colony, 1620, Massachusetts Bay Colony, 1628; New Hampshire, Portsmouth and Dover Colonies, 1623; Maryland, St. Mary's Colony, 1634; Connecticut, Connecticut Colony, 1635, Saybrook Colony, 1636, New Haven Colony, 1638; Rhode Island, Providence Plantation, 1636, Rhode Island Plantation, 1638; New York, Dutch Trading Post, 1614, New Amsterdam, Dutch West India Co., 1623, Fort Orange, Dutch West India Co., 1624; New Jersey, Bergen Colony, 1624, Elizabeth Colony, 1665; Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Colony, 1682; Delaware, Colony of Swedes, 1627; North Carolina, Albemarle Colony, 1650; South Carolina, Carteret Colony, 1670.

It is a source of great pleasure and pride to our Society that the aims and objects for which it was founded have been carried out so successfully that today it takes a place among the leading Patriotic Societies of our Country. During each year some important event of the early days has been celebrated. On December 19, 1896, the Anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims and the Great Swamp Fight was celebrated. On January 14, 1898, was commemorated the First Written Constitution known to history which created a Government, the occasion of the Union of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, CT. [The copy in our book has a '?' by this last line, as well as a '?' in my mind as to what this means!]

On May 25, 1899 we celebrated the May, 1637 victory of the early New England Settlers over the great Pequot Chief, Saccacous. On January 20, 1901 a special service of Thanksgiving was held in Holy Trinity Church, Brooklyn, in commemoration of the first full Sunday service held by the Pilgrims on shore, January 21, 1621.

On May 7, 1901 two anniversaries were combined: The Settlement of Jamestown, VA, 1607 and the Fifth Anniversary of the founding of our Society, at which time a loving cup was presented to Mrs. Harlan P. Halsey in token of appreciation of her untiring devotion to the Society. The Purchase of Manhattan Island from the Indians, in 1626, was commemorated on January 10, 1902.

May 8, 1903 commemorated the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of New York, then New Amsterdam. The Eighth Commemoration, held May 17, 1904, was the establishment of a local government in the Town of Breuckelen, granted by the Colonial Council of the New Netherlands, in June 1664. On May 2, 1905 the Society gave a most satisfactory entertainment entitled "Seventeenth Century Folk, Their Day and Ways", quaintly pictured as they appear in the diary of Judge Samuel Sewall, of Boston, "1674 to 1720".

The Tenth Anniversary, held at the Heights Casino, May 2, 1906 took the form of a May Day celebration, the features of which were a most interesting talk on Colonial History by Professor Canfield of Columbia University, and May Pole and Scarf Dances, by sixteen young women. Besides these commemorative celebrations, the Society had taken an active interest in endeavoring to preserve the old time buildings and landmarks. During the winter of 1906-07 concerted action was taken looking to the preservation of the Schenck Mansion, near Jamaica, Long Island. The Society owned a room in the King Manor House Association at Jamaica, L. I., which was furnished with colonial furniture and relics loaned by our members, and several meetings of the Society were held there.

During the spring of 1902 a bronze tablet was placed in the Dutch Reformed Church in Flatbush to commemorate the first church building on Long Island, erected by order of Governor Stuyvesant, in 1634. Subscriptions were given to the Monument Fund at Provincetown, MA to commemorate the First Landing of the Pilgrims and also to the Prison Martyr Monument Fund of Brooklyn, NY. In the winter of 1902, prizes were offered to the schoolgirls of Brooklyn, NY for the best essay on Colonial Women, in order to stimulate interest in Colonial history among the young people.

In 1903 Mrs. Harlan P. Halsey tendered her resignation as President, owing to ill health and removal from the city. The Society accepted it with deep regret and by unanimous vote made her Honorary President for Life. Mrs. James O. Carpenter served as Acting President until the Annual Meeting held in April, 1904, when Mrs. Samuel Browne Duryea was elected President.

The first Auxiliary Society, under the Charter, was founded at St. Louis, Missouri on April 10, 1905.

During the ten years 1906-1916 it was recorded that the Society, under wise and gracious leadership, maintained the high aims and objects for which it had been formed twenty years previously. In 1908 this Society started City History Clubs, for children of foreign parents, in various parts of Brooklyn, continuing them for many years. The children were instructed in the history of New York from its beginning, with its heroes and its landmarks; it being the aim of the Clubs to develop in the children a love of their City and a spirit of pride and patriotism which, it was hoped, would be a strong foundation for the good citizenship as they grew older.

On April 29, 1908 the departure of the Dutch from Holland, three hundred years previous, was commemorated, and among the distinguished guests was a descendant of Columbus. At the close of the luncheon at which the commemoration was held, it was proposed to send a salutation to Queen Wilhelmina of Holland. The message

was executed by Tiffany elaborately engraved and illuminated on parchment, bound in a cover of scarlet leather with the embossed insignia of the Society in the center and enclosed in a beautifully polished box of California redwood. The greeting was sent through the Netherlands Minister at Washington, and a message of acceptance, expressing appreciation of the gift, was received by the Society. Shortly thereafter, one of our members, while traveling in Holland, visited the Summer Palace and was shown with great pride our gift, with the explanation that it had been sent to their beloved Queen by a distinguished Society of women in America.

On November 4, 1908 a special assembly was held in memory of Mrs. Harlan P. Halsey, the Founder and Honorary President of the Society, who passed away August 6, 1908.

The celebration, May 4, 1909, held in Memorial Hall, was in commemoration of the Tri-Centennial anniversary of the discovery of the Hudson River. On May 3, 1910 was celebrated the granting of the first charter to the Virginia Colonists. On November 8, 1910 a bronze tablet was unveiled and presented to the First Church, Flatlands, in commemoration of the first church erected, 1663. The presentation was made by our President, Mrs. Howard L. Higgins, the Rev. John Gardner accepting for the Church.

November 21, 1911 the celebration took the form of a Thanksgiving dinner in memory of the first Thanksgiving of the New England Colonists. At an Assembly held at Hotel Bossert, March 11, 1913, the granting of the first charter to the Massachusetts Bay Colony was observed. The feature of the Annual Meeting, April 15, 1913, held at the residence of Mrs. Joseph C. Hale, was the presentation of a silver loving cup to the outgoing President, Mrs. Howard L. Higgins.

The Annual Luncheon on February 26, 1914 celebrated the founding of the Colony of Maryland. The luncheon April 15, 1915 commemorated the founding of the Boston News Letter. The Society took an active interest in the Young Women's Christian Association, furnishing a room in the colonial style in the Harriet Judson Home. To the Woman's Club we presented a large curtain for their stage. Funds for a four years' course for a pupil at Adelphi College were contributed; and contributions also were made to the Belgian Relief Fund. In various ways the Society continued its endeavor to be a power for good in the community.



Colonial Daughters of the Seventeenth Century

MOTION

I move the approval of the Crown Colony Chapter for Chartering, the proposed members of which have met all requirements stipulated in Society ByLaws.

Maker

Leslie V. Canavan, Organizing Secretary General