

# The Colonial Dames of America

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## 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 armed forces thereof; or,
- 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 Intercolonial Boundaries  
Constable  
Governor or Deputy-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  
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 of the County Court  
Commissioner of Intercolonial 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  
Governor or Deputy-Governor  
High-Sheriff (prior to 1700)  
Incorporator of the Colony under Charles II  
Judge of Superior Court  
Judge, Probate Court  
Justice of the Peace  
Justice of the Quorum in County Court  
King's Attorney  
Magistrate  
Marshall  
Member of the Council  
Member of the Committee of the Pay Table  
Member of the Continental Congress 1774-18 April 1775  
Member, Andros' Council  
Member, Council of War

Preacher of Election Sermons  
President of Collegiate School (Yale College)  
Representative to the House of Representatives  
The "Seven Pillars"

## 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)  
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  
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 Intercolonial Boundaries  
Constable  
Customs Officer  
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  
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  
Governor, Deputy-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  
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 Intercolonial Boundaries  
Constable  
Delegate to the Albany Congress 1754  
Governor, 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  
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 Intercolonial 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  
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 Honourable Artillery Company  
Preacher of Election Sermons  
President and Deputy-President, 1686  
President of Harvard College  
Selectman  
Sheriff  
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 Intercolonial 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, Lieutenant-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  
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 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)  
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 Intercolonial Boundaries  
Constable  
Councilor Extraordinaire (from 1738)  
Deputy-Governor, Lieutenant-Governor  
Director-General and Vice-Director, under the Dutch  
Governor, 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 of the Royal Council (1702-1738)  
Member, Andros' Council

Member, Governor's Council (Commissioner, Magistrate, Councilor)  
Member, King's Council  
Preacher of Election Sermons  
President of Queen's College (Rutgers University)  
President of the College of New Jersey (Princeton College)  
President, Provincial Council (from 1738)  
Proprietor (East Jersey)  
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 Intercolonial 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  
Magistrate  
Masters of the Orphans' Court, 1653-1664  
Member of the Director's Council  
Member of the Vice-Director's Council  
Members of the Orphans' Court at Fort Orange, 1652-1657

Patroons  
Preacher of Election Sermons  
Receiver-General  
Schout Fiscal  
Schepens  
Surveyor-General  
The Nine Men  
Twelve Selectmen  
Vice-Director at Fort Orange  
Vice-Director on the South River

## **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 Intercolonial 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  
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 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 (the 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 Intercolonial 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, 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)  
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 Intercolonial Boundaries  
Commissioner of the United Colonies of New England  
Constable  
Deputy-Governor  
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 Intercolonial 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  
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, (1647-1662), Governor  
Selectman  
Sheriff

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 Intercolonial Boundaries

Constable

Deputy-Governor

Deputy-Secretary

Governor

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

Preacher of Election Sermons

President of the College of William and Mary

President, or Member, of the Council

Receiver-General

Secretary of State

Sheriff

Surveyor-General

Treasurer

\*Updated January 2012

