

The National Society of  
The Colonial Dames  
of America



Historian's Report  
1910





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The National Society  
*of*  
The Colonial Dames  
*of* America

TENTH BIENNIAL COUNCIL  
HISTORIANS ADDRESS  
By  
ALICE FRENCH  
NATIONAL HISTORIAN  
BEFORE THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
1910

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The National Society  
*of*  
The Colonial Dames  
*of* America

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HISTORIAN ADDRESS

MADAME PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:—

It is with a diffidence which you will all understand that I take the place of your Historian who has so ably, sympathetically and luminously recorded the work of our Society ever since that work began.

Her reports\* have been of inestimable value to me. They have helped me at every turn. Her method of presentation as well as collation of a great and almost bewildering mass of facts of value, has been so admirable that I can only follow in her footsteps. What deviation I may make will be made because of changes in the aims or in the conduct of the Society.

Those of us who have come to these our Councils and thus felt the pulse of our National Society life, must realize the steady widening of our interests and the inevitable concurrent increase in the complexity of our mechanism. Already we are a Society of greater power and importance than our Founders planned; and we are informed with a missionary zeal which however they may now approve, did not belong to the original scheme.

\*One of the ablest reports, that of 1904, was made by Mrs. Lister of Michigan during the absence of the Historian, Miss Wharton, in Europe.



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But the founders of patriotic societies like the founders of a nation have to reckon not only with the present but with a colossal figure in the dark—the Future. And of the future there is only one thing assured; whatever happens it will not be what we expect. Patriotic Societies are a good deal like our children's marriages; whether they turn out well or ill they *never* turn out quite as we have planned.

In view of these aspects of our case; it may be useful not only to try to find what has been the work of each individual unit of the thirty-six composing our Society; but try to find how the work of these different units is affecting the whole society; and what is the general trend of our action and sentiment. It is as if instead of riding from one regiment to another of an army procession, we could detach ourselves in an aeroplane and get aloof enough to view the whole line; to see how it marches—and where!

Coming to details, we find from the reports and Circular Letters submitted by the Societies, that the initial, the especial work for which we were organized, revivifying the memories and guarding the relics of the makers of our country, has been continued with unabated enthusiasm and with growing efficiency.

*Pennsylvania* makes a splendid showing. Stenton, the beautiful old home of James Logan, one-time friend and secretary of William Penn, continues to be the center of much delightful social life. The usual anniversaries have been fittingly observed. Flag Day was celebrated at Independence Hall with an exhibit of flags (loaned by the United States Arsenal) and an eloquent address by Dr. Edward Parker Davis. The Annual Entertainment was held at Bartram's Garden and largely attended by Pennsylvania Dames and their guests from sister Societies of our order. As usual prizes have been offered for historical essays, to the grammar schools. (For in Pennsylvania we try to catch them early and teach them that patriotism did not begin with the revolution, neither should it end there.)



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The Pennsylvania Society at our last Council submitted a list of historic spots in the state as yet unmarked. The list promised work for generations; but the Society has attacked it with a robust courage. Last year, a tablet was erected on the wall of the Witmer Bridge over Conastoga Creek at Lancaster. The inscription tells the passer-by that "The Milestones on the old Turnpike were restored by the Colonial Dames of America and the tablet was erected by the Lancaster County Committee to commemorate the restoration." This very interesting work was inaugurated by Miss Frazer of Lancaster County whose report says aptly: "In restoring these stones the Colonial Dames have not only accomplished a work of lasting good both as to history and present convenience, but have set an example of caring for the old landmarks that will be of interest and use to future generations." One hundred and five stones have been recut and reset and banded with irons when broken. Nine stones were found on the Guelph Road bearing the arms of William Penn. The Dames of Northumberland County are tracing the stones on the turnpike from Reading to Sunbury, four have been found and the Committee hope to trace the other twenty. The Allegheny Committee on the 25th November (that date being the 150th anniversary of the naming of Pittsburgh) marked the spot where Washington crossed the Allegheny River in 1753, with a bronze tablet suitably inscribed, and placed on the Washington School House; for it should not be forgotten that if Gen. Washington belong to a kindred patriotic society, Col. Washington belongs to *us*. The Society cares for the elms in front of Independence Hall, by no means a work of supererogation, since all over the country, "just when we begin to love them so" elms seem to be following the example of the immortal gazelle.

The Pennsylvania Society has been generous in gifts. It has appropriated a hundred dollars to the Pocahontas Memorial Association, a hundred dollars towards the purchase of the home of George Taylor, one of the signers of the Declaration; and five



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hundred dollars towards the purchase of a small house back of Carpenter's Hall to reduce the danger to the hall from fire. I say nothing of the study or publication work of the Society which will be reported elsewhere, but they were both extensive and important. Pennsylvania has 975 members, 70 of whom belong to associate State Societies.

Besides the historical and patriotic work of the Societies every Society of our order during the last five years has paid more or less attention to the government and construction of the National Society.

The Covenant and changes in the Constitution proposed by the Executive Board with which you are all familiar, were thoroughly discussed and the Pennsylvania Society voted to accept the Covenant.

*Maryland* reports that the Jamestown work and the work on Historic Graves of Maryland having necessarily to be intrusted to a few willing and able hands, it was thought wise to attempt to interest the members generally, during the last two years. The social meetings were made an especial feature. As far as possible they commemorated dates of note in the colony's past; but the path of patriotic research was made a journey of delight.

There was a quaint and delicate essay on Colonial Ways in Providence and Rhode Island Plantations, with original letters; there was a humorous and human account of the old "Ma'am Schools" where manners were taught efficiently and letters to a limited extent; there were addresses by scholars of distinction; and entertainment in lighter vein. Mr. Abbott exhibited his famous Manikin which had already appeared in Massachusetts as "Caroline of the Colonies," but was become a French Court lady of the eighteenth century, when she got to Maryland; and almost reconciled her beholders to our present sufferings with too much hair and too little skirts by showing them how much worse their sex had to endure two centuries ago!

In the line of commemorative work, *Maryland* reports that



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the Society is to furnish a room in the surgical hospital in memory of Mistress Brent. The lady, beside her other sufficient claim to consideration, was probably the first woman in Maryland to ask for the ballot. As administratrix of the estate of her kinsman, Gov. Calvert, she demanded a vote in the Assembly. N. B. She did not get it.

Another interesting person whom the Maryland Dames have brought to our attention, was well deserving of the eloquent praise given him by the President of the Society, Mrs. Reed. This half forgotten worthy is James Rumsey, who moved the first steamboat down the Potomac, in 1786, twenty-five years before Fulton made his venture in the Clairmont.

The Society places the colonial relics which from its inception it has collected assiduously, in its dignified and most attractive home in Baltimore.

One of the Maryland donations has a quaint appeal, since it forms another of the links binding us to our "great kinsman o'er the sea." In 1749 Robert Brooke, Gentleman; of Hampshire, England, came to this country "with a great retinue." He became acting governor of Maryland. From him descended a numerous and powerful family of noteworthy services to church and state. But in his old home, Whitechurch, where his ancestors were laid to rest, the Brookes were vanished; and their effigies in the parish church were fallen into crumbling ruin. Moreover the parish was not rich and the neighboring gentry were not interested; whence it fell that the vicar who was struggling to repair the monuments, found the task of raising funds a heavy one. He appealed to the American Brookes; and the Maryland Society added \$25.00 to their contribution, making the repair possible.

Maryland has accepted the Covenant. But I understand with some reservations.

*New Jersey* while following the line of commemorating events and colonial worthies already noted, has some patriotic methods



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distinctly her own. She pays especial attention to enkindling the love of her children for their flag; and the legislature of this state, through the influence of her Dames, has adopted the Salute to the Flag composed by her President at the time, and one of our National vice-Presidents, Mrs. Jamieson, as the official form of respect to be used by the children of the public schools. The spreading of this custom all over the country is an influence for patriotism of far more power than it claims.\*

The New Jersey Society treasures in its rooms a precious collection of colonial relics to which every year adds.

A unique and beautiful labour of the Society is the collection made by its Historic Tree Committee. This Committee gathers leaves and cuttings, scions and offsprings of trees growing on historic ground. During the last two years, the chestnuts and locust trees which make a pleasant shade over Arnold's headquarters and five willows from the Quincy House have contributed to this pious work. Photographs and sketches of famous old houses and gardens are collected by the same committee.

New Jersey has not confined her generosity within her borders. It is interesting to note one of her gifts the like of which we shall find in many reports; a hundred and fifty dollars to the High Shoals School of North Carolina. New Jersey also supports a scholar at Berea College. The Society has spoken its faith in words so weighty and poignant that it is well to repeat them:

"We still feel it a sacred duty that our time, energy and money should be devoted to the preservation of old buildings and marking off Historic spots throughout our state; but when the appeal from the Industrial Educational Associations come to us and the many services for the youth of our land claim us, the 'present need' seems paramount. Our ancestors, the Colonial Dames of long ago, lived in a stirring present. No doubt they also revered the past; but they found as we do the necessity to work for TO-DAY!"

\*"The New Jersey Society of Colonial Dames has now its own flag, in whose honor Mrs. Jamieson's beautiful salute was composed, and it is repeated in unison by the members, with love and pride."

1910 Circular Letter New Jersey.



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The New Jersey Society feels that it does not the less honor their memory that it follows their example.

The New Jersey Social Meetings have the same commemorative aim as in other Societies. Everywhere is to be noted this disposition to honor the men and women to whom our country owes so much as well as we. By consequence there has grown up an interest in them as men and women. We pore over the faded, brown handwriting of their letters and diaries (blessing the writers for their old fashioned round legibility), we rescue their grotesque, pathetic memorial embroideries; we adventure their simpler recipes for feasting and comeliness. In fine, we are beginning to know our own forbears. A chill pride and a rather supercilious curiosity is warming into interest, sympathy, even affection. No longer do they seem to us pompous figure-heads or repellent zealots—often of unsanitary habits—we see them now as men and women of like passions and failings and virtues as ourselves who wrought for righteousness according to their light or equally according to their light struggled to be happy “even as you or I.”

New Jersey endorsed the Covenant after long and patient consideration.

*Delaware* also honors her departed worthies in a practical manner. At the Commemorative meeting in October, 1908, it was decided to restore the ancient State House rather than to erect a monument on Dover Green to the Founders of the Commonwealth. This Delaware State House is one of the three original State Houses of the 13 Colonies still remaining. Maryland and Massachusetts cherish the others. The edifice was finished in 1791 and in architecture resembles Independence Hall. The years had misused it cruelly; its brick and even its marble had been painted while its honest austerity was out-



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raged by a mansard roof of the most abandoned type of that period known to architects as "The Reign of Terror." It was become shabby and forlorn and a firetrap; and there was danger that it would be razed to the ground. The President of the Delaware Society called a meeting of the patriotic societies of the State to consider restoring the State House as the best memorial to Delaware's makers.

So intense and contagious was the enthusiasm aroused that before it adjourned the Legislature voted \$63,000.00 for the purpose. I make no mention here of the immeasurably valuable gift of Deeds and Patents made by Mrs. Miller of Media, Pa., because you are to hear of them later; nor, for the same reason, do I touch upon the work of years done by the Society in copying and codifying abstracts of Wills.

The Delaware Society has had a portrait made of Commodore Thomas MacDonough, the naval hero, to be given the battleship, Delaware. Like New Jersey, Delaware collects trees of lineage; and it has acquired a plot of ground in one of its most lovely parks for their home. Delaware has not yet announced her decision with regard to the Covenant.

The *District of Columbia* occupies a place of its own. It is the domicile of the Society; and each year of Council it welcomes the Colonial Dames present. The manner of its receptions, their lavish hospitality and elegance we all know; and we can form some idea not merely of their cost to the society in money, but in thought and care and effort. During the last two years "the Society has been sorely crippled by the loss not only of its vice-president, Miss Woodbury, but of other prominent members. Many active members are abroad, two have been desperately ill." Nevertheless the Society has held several interesting meetings and has assisted in the restoration of the old Rising Sun Farm. The District, like Delaware, has not announced its decision regarding the Covenant.



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The *Virginia Society*, as heretofore, keeps the memory of its heroes green by making their lives and deeds familiar to their descendants. The Pilgrimage to Monticello in May, 1909, made history seem real to a large company; and reverence for Virginia's great statesman was warmed with a quality more tender and intimate as they passed through the doors which in Jefferson's day always were open to the wayfarer, friend or stranger, alike. In 1910 the consent of the National government (the owners of the property) was obtained to erect at Dutch Gap, on the banks of the James, the site of the hapless town of Henriopolis, a monument to the first college in the United States. In 1618 the London Company requested contributions for the "building and planting a college at Henrico for the training up of the children of the infidels," our ancestors' pleasing synonym for Indians. Ten thousand acres of land were appropriated; but the "infidels" were not anxious to be educated; and, before the college could open, the Indian massacre of 1622 swept the beneficent scheme away in blood and flame. The monument planned by the Virginia Dames is to stand on the bank of the river, reared twenty-five feet high, a shaft of rough-hewn blocks of Virginia granite, with a bronze tablet attached, inscribed as follows:

"The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia, A. D., 1910, erect this monument on the site of the town of Henriopolis, to commemorate the college and university which on the 26th of May, 1619, the Virginia Company of London decreed should be established here."

The contracts have been let, all arrangements made and it is hoped that the autumn of 1910 will see the erection of the monument.\* This has been the most important work of the Society during the last two years; but by no means its only undertaking.

\*Mrs. William T. Robins, Historian of the Society and chairman of the monument committee, has prepared a very interesting monograph, giving the history of the college.



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The priceless portraits of the Virginia Historical Society have been restored by them, Charles Insko Williams being the artist employed; and the success of the restorer is most gratifying.

They have aided in the restoration of Martha Washington's Church in New Kent County, St. Peter's; and the little church at Westover, the ancient seat of the Byrds. They have placed a bronze tablet to the memory of the Society's faithful Vice-President and Charter member, Mrs. Coleman, in the Tucker pew of Bruton church. They have used:

"continued and earnest effort for the preservation of the John Marshall house in Richmond. Finding that the burial place of the Washingtons in West Moreland County which they had repaired, was again fallen into decay, the new fence broken down, the graves overgrown with weeds, the monuments chipped and mutilated by relic hunters, the Virginia Society enclosed the ground with a substantial cement wall, set the stones in cement, overlaying the whole ground with the same, leaving only a narrow border of earth just inside the wall where a hedge has been planted. Moreover a concrete block has been placed in this God's Acre on which is enscribed the names of all the Washingtons buried therein whose graves were not already marked."

Mr. Wilson, the owner of Wakefield, the estate on which is situate the graveyard, has allowed the Society a driveway of ten feet through his fields. An iron gate, kept locked, now guards the entrance to the enclosure.

Virginia gives prizes for essays in colonial history, written by her students. Last year, these went to the University of Virginia and to Miss Gordon of Stuart Hall.

The Society has a scholarship in the University of Virginia for colonial research work.

All this has a familiar sound but a new note is struck when the Virginia Secretary reports the payment of the annual subscription to the American Forestry Association. Jan. 9th, 1909, the Covenant as recommended by the Executive Committee, was accepted by the Society.



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*Rhode Island* has a small, compact and devoted Society. Its main work for the last years, the compilation of its monumental Record Book, will be described elsewhere. Rhode Island gave \$65.00 to the Pocahantas Memorial; and has contributed to other colonial objects. The Society is interested in a project to repair in part the ancient graveyard near Tower Hill in South Kingston. The first Episcopal Church was builded at Narraganset and in response to the petition of the parish the Bishop of London sent the reverend James MacSparr whose faithful services the diocese of Rhode Island commemorated by a monument over his supposed grave; but it has since developed that the supposed was not the real resting place of the good man; and the Rhode Island Society proposes to mark the real grave with a small granite stone, to repair and clean the monument and to put in order the wall enclosing the graveyard.

Rhode Island has made an unique contribution to colonial replicas. "It is a reproduction in silver of the first seal of Brown University." This seal was cast in 1765. It bore the profiles of King George and Queen Caroline with appropriate inscription. In 1782, the triumphant colonists declared, at a meeting of the Corporation, that "in consequence of the American Revolution many things therein were inconsistent," and a committee was appointed "to break the old seal" and substitute a new one.

The committee, consisting of the Chancellor, the President and Henry Ware, esquire, therefore did accordingly meet in University Hall and with pomp and solemnity did break the Seal. Only two imprints of the old seal are known to be in existence, a perfect one in the Cabinet of the Rhode Island Historical Society and a very imperfect one in the Administration building of Brown University. From the first named the Providence School of Design reproduced the seal in silver; and the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island will present it to Brown University, at its forthcoming commencement in June, 1910.

The Society, in 1906, gave to Brown University, a prize fund of over fifteen hundred dollars the annual income of which was



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to be awarded as a prize for the best essay on a subject in American Colonial History. This is known as the Roger Williams Fund.

The *Massachusetts* Society reports a steady growth, not only in its membership, but also in its civic, historic and genealogical work.

The Quincy Homestead continues to be a rallying point for the Society as well as a source of great interest to other historical societies. Special contributions from the Dames have made it possible to send children from schools, settlements and clubs to see the Homestead.

The Dames have contributed largely towards the restoration of two colonial houses, both admirable examples of the architecture of the period. They have restored one of the rooms in the Rebecca Nourse House at Danvers. From this house the ill-fated Rebecca was carried to her trial and doom as a witch; and, behind it, her two sons buried her by night. The house, built in 1636, is esteemed the best specimen of a colonial farmhouse in existence in Massachusetts. The Society has assisted in preserving the famous old Royall House at Medford; and is restoring two rooms in the house. It is the finest type of colonial mansion, saturated with history for its low-studded rooms have seen all the pomp of old-time feasts and weddings, all the sombre state of colonial funerals; and behind guarded doors colonial conspirators have whispered plots; and in dangerous days its secret passages and hiding places have shielded the losers from disgrace or death.

In Milton the Society has erected a tablet to Governor Belcher. It has contributed generously to the fund for improving Dummer Academy where for twenty-seven strenuous years Master Moody of blessed memory, trained his boys in letters and virtue. Fifteen of his scholars were in the Continental Congress, among them Rufus King. At present the Massachusetts Society is warmly interested in its new work of collecting and preserving Church



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Silver of the colonial period. It is making a collection to be exhibited later at the Art Museum in Boston. Massachusetts has always been a generous giver. Among other benefactions within her own borders, she gives \$200.00 annually to the City History Club of Boston which has a membership of three hundred, mostly "little aliens." Their vivid interest in the history of their adopted country is a sign of Hope. From the beginnings of its existence the Massachusetts Society has shown an especial care and tenderness for its wandering children; it has an associate membership of over six hundred.

Massachusetts has adopted the Covenant.

*New York* makes the preservation and enlargement of her noble museum, the Van Courtland House her principal care. It is not generally appreciated how typical and important is this collection. The pewter ware by itself would repay a journey to it, saying nothing of the miniatures, old stuffs, arras, tapestries, prints and the unequalled gathering of mezzo-tint, prints and Wedgewood medallion portraits of the men of mark in the colonies. There is a fascinating collection of salt glaze; and the kitchen reproduces our ancestors housekeeping conveniences with absolute fidelity.\*

Three hundred thousand visitors enjoyed the Van Courtland Museum, last year. Mrs. Janeway, Chairman of the Van Courtland Committee, estimates that on Sundays and Holidays the number for the day, climbs into the thousands. Another indication of the growing interest of the public, is the sale of post-cards which last year rose over the 6000 mark.

New York Dames, assisted with distinction in gathering their own contributions to the wonderful display of old furniture, portraits and plates shown at the Metropolitan Museum. Of

\*There is a good illustration of the Van Courtland kitchen in Walter A. Dyer's "Lure of the Antique."

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the 53 colonial portraits lent, 13 were sent through the New York Colonial Dames and one of this company was given the place of honor in the illustrated catalogue where appeared likewise 21 of the 47 pieces of silver sent.

A prize of \$50 and medal for essays on Colonial subjects are offered each year in the Teacher's College in New York and College in Rochester.

By permission of the Board of Education, a watch is offered to the scholar in best standing on the Training Ship "Newport," as a memorial to Henry Hudson.

Four classes in the City History Club are supported by the Society. A member of the New York Board is a member of the Executive Committee of the Public Education Association, which devotes much time and money to the welfare of the Public Schools. A sum of one hundred dollars was forwarded to the George Washington Memorial Association. The New York Society has placed in the National Museum at Washington "a most valuable historical relic," a Baptismal basin of Dutch silver of the seventeenth century, which bears around its rim an inscription in low Dutch by Dominie Selyns. Among those baptized from this basin were Nicholas Roosevelt, Abraham de Peyster, Gelyver Planck, Robert Livingston, Gerrit Schuyler and others, who illustrious in their own generation have had more illustrious descendants.

On the 25th of September, 1909, began the remarkable pageants, honoring her two great navigators, Hendrick Hudson and Robert Fulton. The New York Society acted as hostess on this occasion, warmly and most graciously welcoming all her comrades of the National Society. (Twenty-four states accepted the invitation including California.)

"No one," says the New York Historian in her graphic Report, "can recall without enthusiasm the sight of the Hudson when the Colonial Dames of the State of New York and their guests, in company with the St. Nicholas Society, on board the steamboat Grand Republic, joined the long procession up the river from the Battery to Spuyten Duyvil—passing all manner of seacraft, dressed for



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the fete in bunting, signal flags, pennons and streamers, with cheers and salutes resounding as the quaint Halve Moen was seen, the Clermont with its passengers clad in garments fashioned a century ago, the foreign warships \* \* \* and finally our own staunch battleships."

One of the guests, an elderly gentlewoman from the West, described the occasion to your Historian: "It was wonderful" said she, "not so much that all the arrangements should be thought out perfectly to the last detail; that the dinner and all that should be exquisitely served—all that is to be expected from New York; but such cordial greeting, such unremitting care for our comfort, such gracious, lovely courtesy—why, it was just like Kentucky!" (Possibly it isn't necessary to mention that the speaker was born in Kentucky.)

The same spirit illumined all the other days for the Society's guests. The New York Dames gave them their own seats for the land pageants; and on Thursday of the festival week, made them welcome at the Van Courtland House. On that day as dignified and as joyous a throng as the stately old patroon's home has ever harbored, wandered through the sunlit rooms in their holiday gaiety of flowers, or strayed into the charming gardens; repairing, at last, to the marquee on the lawn to be delicately and bountifully refreshed. The Hudson-Fulton Celebration has left a shining wake of memories; it has left, also, an enduring memorial in the Catalogue of the Van Courtland Museum, "a difficult task silently accomplished by the President, Mrs. Robinson, and Miss Dudley. An expert collector has said of it; A standard has been set, difficult if not impossible, for others who are not more or less professionals to follow."\*

Taking the whole undertaking which in point of expense and labor may be truthfully called stupendous, the New York Society has certainly earned the gratitude and admiration of the

\*Dr. Kountz, one of the Hudson-Fulton Commissioners, asked for 400 copies of the Catalogue to be bound up with the Catalogues of the other Museums and sent to every Museum abroad.

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entire Society, and Mrs. Robison, Mrs. Chauncy of the Hudson-Fulton Committee and their helpers on the committees and sub-committees are entitled to more than this brief passage of tribute.

New York has accepted the Covenant.

The chief work of the *South Carolina Society* during the past two years has been the restoration of the fine old church tower at Worcester, building a fence around the burying ground and preserving the churchyard which has so many associations.

A Committee assembled pictures, miniatures and other antique treasures for the Exhibition held last March in the Gibbs Building, Charleston, with gratifying results.

In May—to quote from the report of the Society—“there was a special meeting called to consider the adoption of the Covenant, and while recognizing the clearly put reasons for its adoption, South Carolina firmly holds to her original position in the matter.”

South Carolina is very proud of her home in the Old Powder Magazine, built in 1704. It was purchased by the Society a few years ago. When it was bought, two peach trees were blooming, their limbs growing out of the tile roof. There is an interesting post card of that date, depicting the building with this pink plumage. The crumpled roof, the blotched walls from which the stucco is peeling, the blurred outlines, all show how needed was the rescue. The building, as it is now, staunch, massive and austere impressive, justifies the faith of its buyers. Within, the great vaulted room has a charm of its own. The modern features are as skillfully concealed, as are the electric lights in the quaint lanterns which Mrs. Edward Helder has blazoned with the Arms and Crests of the Colonial Governors. Another South Carolinian, Mrs. Francis G. Du Pont of Wilmington, Delaware, has given four engravings, portraits of “Signers,” taken from Sanderson’s *Lives of the Signers*.

South Carolina offers a yearly prize of a twenty dollar gold piece for the best colonial essay written by a student in any of the



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girls' colleges in the State. The Society names the subject of the essay. The latest prize winner was the grand-daughter of William Gilmore Sims, the poet.

The Society rescued the tombstone of Governor Daniels, (used ignobly to cover a well) and obtained permission to have it placed in the vestibule of St. Phillip's Church, Charleston. Relatives of the family bore the expense of placing it. Recently, the Society has remounted the two ancient English cannon in front of the magazine, in granite. They bear the royal crown and the Georgian arms. They were discovered some years ago, in a railway yard, used as posts for a gate. Now these obsolete weapons of a vanished sovereignty, are the peaceful guardians of the descendants alike of tory and "patriots" who dwell not only in peace but in love together.

*Connecticut* has had for her master-work the fit and fair redemption of one of the noblest public buildings in the nation.

For weeks she worked unceasingly to rescue her old State House. Designed by Bullfinch, it has the spacious dignity and purity of line which are the property of that earliest of our great architects.

It was built in 1792; and it is doubtful if any of our surviving edifices of the past is more nobly conceived or honestly builded.

Moreover it has been the scene of many events of interest.

In 1879 it became the City Hall of Hartford. For utilitarian purposes many changes were necessary. And the seventies were not our happiest architectural period. Bullfinch's beautiful spiral staircase was replaced by a modern misdemeanor and the spacious old hall brought ruthlessly "up to date." Of late years, the exterior had been put in order by the city; but rooms used for the Senate Chamber and the lower Chamber and the beautiful hall, needed to be restored. The building was not fireproof; and the valuable deeds stored in it, were in constant danger. There was a proposition to replace the old building by a "modern municipal building," rather than go to the expense of restoring

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and safeguarding it. "Such a wolfish destruction of a rare heritage seemed to the Connecticut Society little less than a crime!" To avert it they offered to pay half the twenty thousand dollars needed to restore the interior if the City of Hartford would give the other half. And this sum must be raised in two weeks. As the President, Mrs. Holcombe wrote with equal truth and temperance of phrase, "To raise ten thousand dollars in two weeks is quite a task." Nevertheless the task was accomplished by the tact, devotion and dogged work of the Connecticut Dames and their good friends. The discovery of the Bullfinch plans and a forgotten stowaway of the discarded spiral staircase; and the retention (probably by mistake) of the beautiful old Georgian woodwork in the erstwhile Hall of Representatives, made a true restoration possible. The Dames tried the direct appeal of personal presentation of their object as well as the indirect appeal of the Press. They explained what they wished to do to editors, city officials, aldermen, labor leaders, politicians. The Society is so fortunate as to have for president a woman whom all the classes of the town not only admire but respect and trust. She worked as tactfully as energetically. And her Society loyally and unselfishly seconded her efforts. They persuaded the Council to admit the public to the Council Chamber and permit any one to inspect the plans of restoration. Members of the Society gave their services as "docents;" and explained the plans to visitors.

The result of much carefully planned and self-sacrificing work which cannot be praised too highly, was a steadily mounting enthusiasm not only among the Dames, but among the citizens of the town and the state, as well as the raising of the money.

"One of the conspicuous events of the Connecticut Society during 1908 was the inauguration of a collection of laces and embroideries owned by colonial dames in the early days."

Connecticut has a traveling library which increases in numbers and popularity, every year. There are at present a hundred libraries circulating over the state. The Society is interested in



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old silver as well as old lace, and is making a card catalogue of its treasures. The work of the Committee on Old Houses prospers; and the Committee offers to give numbers in wrought iron to any one desiring to place such on old buildings. Each year, the Committee's folios containing descriptions and photographs of Connecticut colonial houses, becomes more valuable. The Society offers liberal prizes to her school children for essays on colonial subjects. The copying of church records and old grave stones proceeds with most painstaking fidelity. During the years which the reports cover, 74 church records and the inscriptions of 18 graveyards have been copied.

The Connecticut Society has voted to adopt the Covenant on condition the ratio of five to one be retained.

*Georgia* shows us a new side of endeavor. As is natural she has bestirred herself to help her own mountaineers. Here indeed we have a live, human legacy from colonial times, a race of pure Americans whose isolation has kept them the very replica of their colonial ancestors.

Naturally they have appealed to the patriotic societies of the state; and there is a steadily growing concern in their behalf. The Georgia Society works by means of paying for the support of scholars in the schools.

The Georgia Colonial Dames united with other patriotic Societies in a Tea given for the benefit of the Southern Educational Association.

A noteworthy contribution by the Society was the raising through its agency, of three thousand dollars for the Oglethrope monument, a tribute to perhaps the most lovable and stainless character in all our colonial history.

Georgia has unanimously adopted the Covenant.

*New Hampshire* has worked in much the same manner as her comrades of New England. She has marked and is marking her old gravestones where time was obliterating the story of the past:

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she has offered prizes to her school children for patriotic essays; she has improved and beautified the pleasant colonial manor house which is her Society home. It stands high on the rocky coast; and two ancient William and Mary field pieces defend its friendly entrance.

The Society has given generously to the Washington Memorial, to the Pocahontas memorial and to the Georgia mountaineers.

New Hampshire has accepted the Covenant.

*North Carolina* has not one of the largest societies; but it is a society yielding to none in unselfish and sagacious work for the purposes of our order.

The North Carolina Society has erected a monument, (composed of stones from Gov. Tryon's "palace") at Russellborough, to the daring colonists who made the first armed resistance to the Stamp Act. The monument was unveiled by Mrs. Gaston Mears, the former President of the Society, at the annual Pilgrimage to Old St. Phillips, situate on the historic plantation of Orton, now the home of the President of the Society, Mrs. James Sprunt. George Moore of Orton, it may be remembered, was leader of the "one hundred and fifty armed men of Cape Fear," who surrounded Gov. Tryon's "Palace" demanding the dies, and other "odious emblems" of the hated law; likewise the "person of the commander of the British sloop of war." North Carolina offers a first prize of fifty and second prize of twenty-five dollars to the students of her State University for the best essay on a subject pertaining to the colonial history of the state. North Carolina has accepted the Covenant.

The work of the *Associated Societies* must of necessity be curtailed in certain directions; they have not the wealth of precious history which is the heritage of the thirteen; but it is a mistake to suppose them destitute; for some of the non-colonials are of as ancient lineage as any of the thirteen. Maine, Vermont, West



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Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida touch colonial times at a hundred points.

*Maine* has distinguished herself by her scholarly, exhaustive and (as literature) most delightful histories of her old towns and her colonial seats and homes. *Maine* has been liberal in gifts; a hundred dollars to the George Washington Memorial, fifty dollars to the monument to Alexander Hamilton, fifty dollars as a prize to the best essay on colonial subjects by students of the Woman's colleges. This prize is called the Mary Floyd Neeley Prize "in loving memory of the first president of the *Maine* Society." *Maine* from the beginning of her society existence has maintained that she is a colonial state. She has never swerved from her original contention. It is due her to say that in the high courtesy, the dignity and the fine breeding with which she has borne herself through difficult years of controversy with her associates, no state could be more colonial! Holding this position, *Maine* has declined to sign the Covenant.

*West Virginia's* position is akin to *Maine's*. She has defined her position as follows;

(A) We cannot subscribe to an Irrepealable Constitution.

(B) We desire that a two thirds majority vote shall rule on all legislative and constitutional questions which come before the Councils of our National Society.

(C) We desire to be able to elect the President of our own State Society, without the intervention of the National President.

(D) We desire such changes in our National Constitution as will ensure equal and exact Constitutional rights and privileges to each and all members of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

*West Virginia* has almost completed a very beautiful sun-dial which will mark the site of Fort Clendenning built about the time of the battle of Mount Pleasant, in a merciless Indian war, when the scattered little band of settlers on the Kanawha river, slept with guns at their bedsides. The sun-dial will stand on the

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river bank in the fairest spot of the city of Charleston-Kanawha.

The Society is planning a work of greater magnitude; namely, the erection of a monument to James Rumsey. This is to be at Berkeley Springs. While the West Virginia Society is not large it is growing rapidly; and its members are deeply interested in colonial work. The Society has generously remembered various other than colonial good works. It has given a hundred dollars to the American Red Cross Society for the relief of the Manilla sufferers; it has made important additions to the furnishing of the West Virginia room at Mount Vernon; and, returning to its colonial work, it offers prizes for colonial essays to its students.

Very wisely, *Alabama* whose story goes back to the seventeenth even the sixteenth century, has honoured the memories of the brave and joyous cavaliers from France, who were her best friends, in her infancy; and whose brilliant gaiety brightens her records. In the same Catholic spirit the Alabama Society has erected an imposing granite boulder to the memory of Tuscaloosa, the famous Mobilian warrior.

They have given a lunette of stained glass for one of the windows of the Young Men's Christian Association Building in Birmingham. These windows bear the flags of the six nations which have owned Alabama. The Society chose the great standard of England.

The Society is now considering the raising of a shaft of Alabama marble to Andrew Jackson and his soldiers, at old Fort Toulouse, Gen. Jackson having used the ancient French fort during the Creek war.

According to another good old custom of hers Alabama has contributed liberally to outside causes. With regard to the Covenant and proposed changes in the constitution Alabama's position is almost identical with that of West Virginia.



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*California*, another state of ancient but not Anglo-Saxon lineage, has presented a sun-dial to Golden Gate Park; and has contributed to the Pocohontas Memorial. The California Society is large numbering a hundred and fifty members. The Society is united and enthusiastic. It is becoming more and more interested in its own unique and picturesque history.

The annual social event of the Society, the breakfast in San Francisco, is praised, not more for the admirable cuisine than for the eloquence, wit and open hearted charm of its welcome. In the language of a captivated guest; "It is not only a Feast but an Experience!" California has accepted the Covenant.

*Vermont* records go back, beyond the landing of the Mayflower, to the dim dawn of the seventeenth century when (in 1069) Samuel de Champlain explored the lake which bears his name. And its actual settlement is as early as 1716.

Four states, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut disputed its beautiful mountain land, so it has a picturesque and sometimes boisterous colonial history of its own. It commemorates by tablets and monuments its legends and its colonial worthies.

Vermont has contributed to the Pocahontas monument and to other outside causes. The Society is small owing in part to the existence of a competing (if the word may be allowed) colonial Society called the "Colonial Dames of Vermont" which has no connection with our own order and has an easier path to its enclosure as well as smaller admission fees and dues. Vermont has accepted the Covenant.

*Florida*, still another colony of the past, is suitably marking her historic spots. With the aid of her sister societies she restored the Gate of old St. Augustine, and she now plans to place a tablet on the old fort which:

Waits and waits in vain  
To see once more,  
Approach the shore  
The vanished flag of Spain.

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“Feeling”—to borrow her own words—“that no work is more imperative in its demand than that on educational lines; and especially touched by the needs of the children of the Southern mountaineers,” the Society supports a boarding pupil at one of the schools. It offers a medal for the best essay written by a student of the Florida High Schools on Colonial subjects. The latest subject given was the “Influence of Colonial Life on American Literature.”

*Louisiana*, too, has her history; and her commemorative meetings during the last two years have recalled the *grandes dames* of her past. Louisiana offers prizes for colonial essays and is interested in all educational work. Louisiana objects to the Covenant's irrepreachable character and to the provision that presidents of the associate societies shall be endorsed by the National President; but she is desirous of meeting the wishes of her sister associate societies; and willing to accept the Covenant with these features removed.

Louisiana does not yet possess a home of her own. She is preparing to obtain one, however, and the Society is full of courage, hope and vigor.

The *Mississippi* Society in its president's language “is like a happy family; it has no history and is increasing and multiplying.” Indeed, the energies of the Society and its officers have been mainly used in the wise direction and control of this rapid growth. The State has been divided into Districts providing for more frequent meetings of its widely scattered members. But Mississippi, the State, has no lack of history colonial or modern. De Soto invaded it with all the mailed and ruthless greed of Sixteenth century Spain; A hundred years later, Pere Marquette and Louis Joliet sailed up its mighty river on their mission of peace and good will. By turns, Spain France and England have claimed and fought over the land; and its story is the story of Alabama and Louisiana, with the same plenty of dazzle and



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bravery and bloodshed. To its study the Mississippi Dames are applying themselves with a growing interest.

There is another group of states which might be termed Near-Colonial since they were held by the colonies but, in the main, were unsettled at the colonial period; the states of the Louisiana Purchase, for example. Indeed, if we come to examine, most if not all of us have some colonial affiliations and claims to high descent. A few of these states like Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, contain colonial spots. Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Washington, are further removed from the colonial period. What are such states to do? Illinois has met the question frankly. She has worked for ten years along the same lines. The report of the Illinois Society affirms its belief that "Ancestral Societies have no reason for being unless they undertake definite and intelligent work for the amelioration of the condition of their neighbors which shall help them towards civic betterment and righteousness." Illinois believes that the glory of the ancestors belongs to them and not to their descendants. It belongs to the descendants to prove themselves worthy of their ancestors by preserving and enlarging the legacy of hope to all the peoples of our land which the Fathers have given us. Hence Illinois has chosen to work among the alien races of Chicago. We are all more or less familiar with what she has done. In 1900 her first scholarship in the University of Chicago was founded "with a twofold purpose, first of stimulating the study of American history; and next of preparing a student to teach the foreign youth of the city."

Both purposes have been accomplished. The University reports that the winners of the scholarship have been men of exceptional character and attainment who are "doing fine work in the world." While general interest has been aroused in our nation's history and purpose.

"Last year," says the Report from which I quote,—which is so uniquely interesting that I regret I have not space to give it entire—"Last year, a second

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scholarship was founded at the Northwestern University and we have from our Northwestern Student enthusiastic reports of his class. The Jewish people who are being drawn in increasing number into this settlement, are deeply interested in civic problems and the fight for better municipal government. Mr. Lewis has a weekly class of these boys who are very much above the average in ability and earnestness. \* \* \* These are men destined to become leaders of their people and it is most desirable to direct them along lines that will aid them in becoming citizens of the highest type."

And it is we all know, just such men as these, young, ardent, willing to sacrifice everything to a beautiful, even if impossible ideal, who, misdirected, run riot after half facts and political mirages; and lead forlorn hopes of destruction.

The remarkable work of Mr. Zmrhal is well known in this connection. He is now principal of a public school and has large opportunities of usefulness among the many nationalities from which his pupils are recruited. Such opportunities he seems to improve in various ways.

Not only does he celebrate "every date of importance in our history, but from time to time he addresses large audiences of his own countrymen in their own tongue. These people have a very limited if any knowledge of English, and these meetings are their only opportunity to learn of American history. He has instituted classes in civics and good citizenship. As these classes are not authorized by the School Board, the Dames have furnished a fund for text books. Mr. Zmrhal has in preparation a civic primer which the Dames propose publishing in English and Bohemian."

Under the circumstances it would appear plain that the Illinois experiment is no longer an experiment but an example. Illinois has accepted the Covenant.

*Missouri* is one of the Associated Societies which has followed the lighted torch of Illinois. She maintains a scholarship in the George Washington University. The present scholar, Mr. H. B. Nelson, has given two lesson lectures (Boston in the Revolution and Notable Events in American History) before the Hungarian Society. They were illustrated with slides; and



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received with flattering attention by four hundred future citizens. The Society has also a scholarship of \$200 in the University of Missouri, which is held by the successful candidate for four years, given "to encourage the study of American History and Government." Considering that the membership of the Society is only ninety-one and the annual admissions are limited to eight; and that the Society has lost four valued members during the year, Missouri certainly does not need to be shown. Rather she has shown us what a small but united and wisely vigorous Society can do. Missouri is opposed to the Covenant; and has not signed it.

*Ohio*, which is one of the strongest and largest of the societies has always had a deep interest in educational work. She has a fellowship in American History in the University of Cincinnati, (this year for the first time awarded to a young woman); she subscribes regularly to the National Historical Society; and she has inaugurated the telling of stories from colonial history to children in public libraries, beginning with the Cincinnati Public Library. The last is an experiment which will be watched most carefully and hopefully by many of the Societies in the non-colonial states

Ohio has always been generous. During the past two years she has contributed to the Pocahontas statue, to a memorial to Lincoln (a statute of heroic size to be placed in Government Square, Cincinnati) and to other worthy objects without her borders; and it will be remembered that she was one of the large givers to the Jamestown Memorial.

Ohio has opposed the Covenant, believing that its adoption is against the best interest of the National Society; but her opposition has always been most temperately and courteously urged. It was characteristic that she should have united with Kentucky and Tennessee in the Louisville invitation. While the arguments of the supporters of the Covenant did not change the opinions of the Ohio delegates they were convinced that a large

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majority of the Societies were in favor of the plan; in consequence, while feeling that she cannot sign the Covenant, Ohio will not oppose it further. If the language of the street may be permitted in this dignified body, Ohio is a good loser.\*

*Colorado* is one of the smaller Societies, (small in part because of its careful scrutiny of membership), but is united, harmonious and happy. It is always a generous giver to causes of colonial interest. The members have meetings oftener than many of the Western Associated Societies, and, at these meetings, there are always papers and addresses of solid scholarship and inspiration, and the addresses of the president are so vital, so full of civic enthusiasm and do so impressively plead for the colonial aims and standards of character that their publication is truly a public benefit. No Society has more vivid ideals of the real meaning of our order than this handful of gentlewomen beyond the great Western mountains. No Society realizes more clearly than these women-voters that unless a democracy can save the basic virtues of an aristocracy from the wreck, and can add to its wider sympathies, obedience, loyalty and self-control, that democracy is as surely doomed as a fire balloon.

Colorado has unanimously adopted the Covenant.

*Iowa* is in full sympathy with Colorado, also with Illinois. She is watching Ohio's experiment of telling stories to children. She offers annually prizes for essays to her students. Last year, she offered a hundred and fifty dollars in prizes to the students of her universities; and, usually, the President offers a prize of twenty-five dollars to high school students. This year, in addition the Society is to support two scholars at some school of the Southern Industrial Educational Association.

\*A letter from the officers of the Ohio Society, to this effect was read in the Executive Meeting. It stated Ohio's position in the matter explicitly and eloquently; but added that with so large a majority of the Societies holding the contrary opinion, Ohio would not agitate further in the matter.



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Iowa has a Borough System for her scattered band—the state being divided into five boroughs which meet for study and patriotic work. The subject of study for the coming year is “The Work of the Society.” The different letters will be read and fully discussed, that the Iowa Society may not only *hear*, mark and inwardly digest, but may find an example for their own future endeavor. A department of American History recently added to one of the Iowa colleges, is said to be an indirect result of these prizes.

Iowa has unanimously adopted the Covenant.

The experience of Iowa with her Prize Essay subjects may point a moral if it cannot adorn a tale. The Society wished to give colonial subjects, but the professors of history in the universities, who were to act as judges, pleaded for Iowa subjects on which there were materials for original research at hand. Therefore, the Society granted Iowa subjects trusting that once the youth of the state became interested in the prizes they could be led insensibly, as it were, from Iowa to the Colonies. The Society discovered that they couldn't be led insensibly or any other way. When they were offered seventy-five dollars for colonial research and only fifty or twenty-five for Iowa; they chose the latter, and we were obliged to give the first prize to a third prize essay!

This year, they will have only colonial subjects; so that perforce they must write on them; but there is a grisly possibility that they may not write at all! And their work has been of a really high order. This illustrates a difficulty with which all the Associate Societies have to contend; and may explain the visible leaning of many states to local subjects of a more recent date. Local research will always put in its own word. In the Ancestral Societies the colonial is as much the local history as any;—but it never is easy to make the emigrant child use his mother tongue!

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Therefore the more need that he be not allowed to forget it. The more need that we have Societies in the new states with their wealth and power and teeming life, to recall to their children the story of their old home. If we had no other reason—and we have other reasons a plenty—this would justify the existence of the Associates.

The name of *Michigan* at once suggests the Elizabeth Rathbone Patriotic Educational Work, named in honor of the Society's devoted and able first President, Mrs. Rathbone. The first Chairman of the Committee was our honoured vice-President, Mrs. Lister; and the movement owes much to her wisdom and gentle energy. As is well known the work has to do with the Italians in Michigan, particularly in Detroit. There are between 10,000 and 15,000 Italians in Detroit. A series of lectures on American History was arranged for their benefit. The lectures were illustrated by lantern slides in some cases and generally "supplemented by a musical program." The Reverend Pasquale de Carlo was the lecturer, and the concerts were under the direction of Signor Barlotta, "who gave freely of his time and labour." \* \* \* The audiences were always large and appreciative. In 1909 a weekly paper, *La Tribuna*, was started, its object being to prepare Italians for their respective duties as American citizens. The Society subscribed \$150.00 towards its support and circulation.

The Michigan Dames collected \$140.00 as well as clothing for the sufferers from the forest fires in the autumn of 1909. The Colonial Dame Branch of the Manila Aid Society, under the chairmanship of Miss Campbell, and in conjunction with a committee from the Daughters of the American Revolution, packed and sent fifteen boxes of books and magazines to the soldiers of the United States in the Philippines, in 1908; and 17 boxes the following year.

The Society subscribed also towards the Pocahontas monument.



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You have heard how in the spring of 1908 the National Secretary submitted a tentative Covenant to the presidents of Societies for their personal suggestions and opinions; and how misunderstanding its nature many presidents convened their Societies and accepted or declined a Covenant which had never been proposed. And you know how under this impression Michigan invited the Associated Societies to meet with her and consider this Covenant. Six Societies signed the very able paper which was the result of this meeting; and which is known as the Detroit Petition. It opposed the "irrevocable nature" of the Covenant and requested equal representation and equal rights for all societies. It was signed by the Societies of Michigan, Maine, Alabama, Ohio, Missouri and West Virginia. As the petition was against a Covenant different from that eventually proposed to the Society by the Executive Board, the Secretary wrote to this purport to the Petitioners and no other action was taken upon it by the Board. But it is interesting to note that if the recommendations of the Executive Board are adopted by this Council, several of the features of the existing Constitution against which there is objection made in the Detroit Petition, will be removed. Since the Petition and the Louisville Meeting it is understood that there is some change in the attitude of the Michigan Society and at least a possibility that it may sign the *real* Covenant, at some future Council.

The *Texas* Society is a small Society in an immense State. It has all the disadvantages of magnificent distances to overcome. In spite of this the Society is growing and prospering. It has erected a tablet of bronze to the memory of the officers of the United States Army who fell in the Mexican war. The tablet will be placed in the Entrance Hall of the State Capital. Texas offers liberal prizes to its young students for historical essays. It believes that thus has been given a stimulus (already apparent) to the interest of the future rulers of Texas in the work and character of the Founders. Texas has accepted the Covenant.

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In the same spirit of desire to perpetuate the memory of great deeds *Minnesota* has obtained permission from the government and placed a tablet on the old Round Tower of Fort Snelling to commemorate the acquisition of the land for the post by Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, known to his countrymen as the discoverer of Pike's Peak. And on the twenty-third of September, 1909, (a hundred and four years after the land was ceded by the Indians,) "in the presence of the Colonial Dames of Minnesota and their guests which included representatives from the various patriotic societies and the press, and of General Charles L. Hodges, Commander of the Department of Dakota and his staff, together with the entire garrison of the Post in full regimentals; the President of the Minnesota Society, Mrs. Charles Eliot Furness, presented the tablet and General Hodges accepted it in behalf of the United States Government and of the Department of Dakota."

The tablets it in bronze, the upper corners bearing military eagles in high relief. Between them is a profile medalion of Lieutenant Pike, taken from an old print.

The inscription follows:—

TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF  
ZEBULON MONTGOMERY PIKE  
FIRST LIEUTENANT U. S. A.  
WHO ON SEPTEMBER 23d, 1805  
ACQUIRED FOR THE GOVERNMENT BY  
TREATY WITH THE SIOUX NATION THE  
SITE OF FORT SNELLING

\* \* \* \* \*

THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY THE  
SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA.  
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

1909



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During the last two years Minnesota has been interested in historical study; and there grew out of such study the movement to erect this memorial to a brave and unselfish soldier whose services were far greater than his reward either in his profession or in fame.

Minnesota has adopted the Covenant.

*Wisconsin* is a large and very prosperous Society and full of good works. It has an annual Flag Day whereat orators of distinction or noted men address the Dames and there are appropriate ceremonies, sometimes exceedingly impressive. *Wisconsin* gave fifty dollars to the Pocahontas Memorial; and suitable sums to other worthy causes. It gives yearly a scholarship in the Hindman School, Knott County, Kentucky. *Wisconsin* has accepted the Covenant.

Naturally *Kentucky* has always contributed generously to the education of her own Mountain children; in this work it is more deeply interested than ever; but during the past year the principal work of Kentucky has been—among *Us!* The Louisville Meeting has been fully and admirably described already. I will not repeat the story, save to say again that its influence was wholly for good. Moreover Kentucky's work for the Society was distinctly illuminating. (And with Kentucky Tennessee is indissolubly connected, the two working together from the very inception of the movement.) Unquestionably the discussion and the explanation of vital episodes in our history which had not been understood or had been misinterpreted; and the opportunity to examine personally some of the actors in these episodes as well as the documentary evidence produced and the whole connected effect; *all this* made for comprehension.

Comprehension always makes for sympathy and conciliation.

Courtesy is almost as powerful; take them together and the admirable temper of the meeting was inevitable. But none the less to be admired. I know of no act of more delicate and high bred courtesy in all our records—and you will find many

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—than the conduct of the dissenting Societies at the final vote. There were no votes against the approval of the Covenant. Ohio refrained from voting against a measure which she could not conscientiously favor. In the same spirit of conciliation Michigan, also, refrained from voting. The Louisville meeting thus increased not only our information but our good will; and to the hostesses we owe an enduring debt of gratitude.

*Tennessee* goes further than many Societies in her educational work. Most of us are content to found scholarships and support a few scholars; but the Tennessee Society has undertaken a whole rural school! She furnishes and equips it and adds sufficient to the county stipend to secure "a very competent teacher."

"In connection with this School," says the Report from Tennessee, "we hope to establish a form of settlement work including a model garden and lessons in home-making and house-keeping." In order to meet the necessarily large expense the Society has increased the admittance fee to fifteen and the annual dues from three to four dollars.

*Indiana* reports a new beneficiary, The Immigrant Aid Society to which, last year, she gave fifty dollars. Indiana's prizes are offered to the High Schools; and the foundation is named The Margaret Dwight Edwards Chislett Memorial in loving memory of the Society's late vice-President. Those of us who remember Mrs. Chislett at the Council of 1906; her gentle shrewdness, her unflinching good humor and sanity, will be glad that her memory is to be kept green in this helpful fashion.

In connection with Indiana, one recalls the faithful and far-sighted labours of the former President, Mrs. Winchester, in discovering the historic spots of the state, many of them unsuspected before. These spots the Society is endeavouring to mark in a suitable manner.

One meeting of the Indiana Society is of general and original interest. It is called Letter Day; and at it the Circular Letters



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from the other Societies are read. Very truly the Indiana report says that if the writers of the Letters could be present and could hear the warm expressions of delight and pride in their achievements as the reading goes on, they would feel how close is the bond between us all.

Indiana has accepted the Covenant.

*Arkansas* is a small but united and growing Society in a great State which has been for a century the butt of newspaper wit, but which is at last coming into its own. *Arkansas* is interested in all the work of the Society; last year she contributed twenty-five dollars to the Pocahontas Memorial; and she is studying up methods of aid to her own needy citizens and of bringing to them the knowledge of the inspiring history of their country. Next Council there is likely to be an interesting report from *Arkansas*.

*Kansas*, last year, was our "right new baby;" but this year we have two newcomers, *Nebraska* and *Washington* whom we welcome cordially. Meanwhile it is pleasant to observe how *Kansas* is finding her way about and thriving. Both *Arkansas* and *Kansas* have accepted the Covenant.

This completes the tale. Several facts seem to lift themselves out of the mass of testimony. One is that time and habitude have not dulled our zeal for the primary objects of the Society. Rather we seek them with a deeper devotion and a broader vision. We have not only restored the buildings and the monuments of our forefathers; we have restored *them!* We ourselves, have rescued from the corroding rust of oblivion a multitude of minor heroes whose services to the commonwealth (often of vital worth) have been dismissed by the histories in a paragraph; but whose works do follow them. It is just these modest, robust, shrewd, fearless, loyal, sane gentlemen and gentlewomen, these reasonable aristocrats who made our democracy possible; and without the like of whom no democracy can persist. Now this is much. But the patriotic Societies of the

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country have done more. They have inspired women with a living interest in the experience of their country. Also, they are no longer satisfied with perfunctory history. They want the real thing. We are beginning to want to understand how our institutions were instituted. Possibly our own problems are not so brand new as we have fancied them; in their infancy they may have bothered our ancestors. We want to find out. We have learned the fascination of following the development of a people as apart from a state. There is no question that study of this sort has made for more flexibility and breadth of view as well as for a more enlightened patriotism. Naturally out of it has grown our missionary spirit, which is another significant fact. To make Americans of our foreign born citizens and their children we try to tell them the true story of America. Still another fact which this survey offers us, is that the old fashioned ideals which we have been studying have affected us; and through us are affecting others. Who can deny that this generation needs them sorely! To our great grandmothers what Margaret DeLand calls "that regal word, Ought" was the Court of Last Resort. Our grandmothers believed in Duties; our granddaughters believe in Rights—equal rights. Possibly a Society which stands for obedience to Duty, for respect to authority, for courtesy under any provocation, for sweetness as well as light may do yet more by Being than by Doing. Certainly—another fact looming high out of the testimony—certainly we now have an opportunity to display all the traditional dignity and self restraint and toleration befitting Colonial Dames.

The spirit of Democracy has invaded our own ranks and challenges our conservatism. The controversy which has been conducted for years with great courtesy but unwaning earnestness, is before us, with a possibility of settlement. I have faith to believe that it is going to be settled. One reason is that we are in the position of the little Virginian girl. (I have the story from the one who knew her best of all.) The little girl had rebelled at some convention of her mammy; and the mammy told



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her that she couldn't do what she wished because "bohn an' raised ladies never did do dat-a-way."

"I hate bein' a lady," wailed the child in disgust, "I *wont* be a lady any more!"

"You gotter do lak I tells you," returned mammy unmoved, "'cause you gotter be a lady; an' you gotter be a lady 'cause you *is!*"

You see; we all "gottter be a lady 'cause we *is!*"

In very truth it is not for us a picked body of women of mature age, who have lived and known the world in many phases; to whom have been given great privileges, great responsibilities, who stand now looking towards a darkening horizon over unforgettable graves, it is not for us to make the mistakes of crude and hot-headed youth; to mistake prejudice for principle, to be unjust or impetuous, or unkind.

To whatever decision we shall come, I have faith to believe that it will come after fair and honest and calm investigation; and will be, according to our fallible standards, the best that our consciences and our light will allow, best for us, and best for the great Society which we love and which may become even greater than now we dream.

ALICE FRENCH,  
*Historian.*







