



*The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
55 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108-3595*

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

What is the National Society of Colonial Dames of America?

The NSCDA is an organization of women which actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. Founded in 1891, there are over 15,000 members in 44 state societies. More than 70 historic properties throughout the country are affiliated, managed or owned by various societies. (www.nscda.org)

What are the particular activities and projects of the Massachusetts Society?

Consisting of around 425 members, the Massachusetts Society operates 3 historic houses including its early 19th century headquarters, the William H. Prescott House in Boston. (nscdama.org) We offer a full schedule of educational programs, social events, and trips for members, maintain an important costume collection, and sponsor or host projects relating to patriotic services, such as a school essay contest and a reception for veterans.

What are the benefits of membership in our Massachusetts Society?

The main benefit of membership is meeting and working with compatible women who share an interest in history and genealogy. This can involve actively helping with one of our historic houses, serving on a committee, or simply supporting our activities through membership dues and attendance at events. Further, Massachusetts Dames have the opportunity to participate in **multiple**-day trips to historic sites, including visits to homes, gardens and cultural institutions by invitation of societies in different parts of the country. These trips are meticulously planned and occur approximately every 18 months and have proven extremely popular over a number of years.

How do I become a member of the Massachusetts Society?

An applicant first needs to identify an appropriate ancestor who gave official or professional service to the colony before July 5, 1776. Once a colonial ancestor has been identified, an application to become a candidate must be voted on by the Board. This requires the support of a proposer, seconder and two members from the Board. After being invited to become a candidate, a genealogist is assigned to work with the individual to help her acquire the proper documents to prove blood relationship, i.e. birth certificates, wedding license, etc. Upon completion of her lineage papers, signed by the genealogist and the registrar, a formal invitation is mailed to the candidate.

What is the cost?

When an individual is accepted as a candidate, an entrance fee is paid to cover six hours of work by the genealogists on staff. The entrance fee to join the Massachusetts Society is \$300. Once papers are completed and the candidate becomes a member, she pays annual dues which are currently \$205.

Where do I get more information or help with my application?

There are members available to help an applicant with the process of becoming a candidate, including identifying an appropriate ancestor and getting to know other Dames. Please contact Ida Klasner, Secretary of the Massachusetts Society (telephone: 617-742-3190 or e-mail: dames@nscdama.org) for more information.



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
55 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108-3595
Telephone 617-742-3190 * Fax 617-722-9702 * nscdama.org

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

An Applicant for membership in the Society shall be proposed by one Massachusetts Colonial Member and seconded by another, both of whom should know the Applicant well, and each of whom shall write a letter of recommendation. In addition, an application form shall be filled out by the Proposer, or by the Applicant herself. The form and Proposer letter should be mailed together to the Corresponding Secretary at 55 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. The Secunder letter should be sent at the same time so that the full application can be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Proposers and Seconders must be Members of the Massachusetts Society for at least two years. No relative closer than a first cousin may propose or second an Applicant for membership, with the exception of daughters or grand-daughters of Massachusetts Colonial Members. In that case, any Massachusetts Colonial Member, including the Applicant's mother or grandmother, may serve as Proposer and no Secunder is required.

It is the Proposer's responsibility to ask two current Board members to speak for the Applicant when her name is presented by the Corresponding Secretary. It is also the Proposer's responsibility to assure that both Board speakers will be at both readings of the Applicant's file. In the event a speaker cannot attend the first or second reading, a short letter to the Corresponding Secretary, which may be sent by email, in support of the Applicant will suffice. Speakers must be present for at least one of the readings.

Those members proposing an Applicant should take the responsibility of introducing their Applicant to other Dames and of bringing said Applicant to Dame events held either at Prescott House or in their area.

When voted and accepted by the Board of Managers, the Applicant shall be invited to become a Candidate to join the Massachusetts Society. Final acceptance of her lineage papers, through the assistance of the Genealogist, shall constitute recognition of her election as a full Colonial Member.

Any further questions may be directed to the current Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Society.



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date:

Full Name of Applicant:

Maiden Name:

Husband's Name (if applicable):

Children's Names (if applicable):

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Educational institutions Attended:

Professional Experience (past or present):

Volunteer Activities:

Personal Interests (recreational, hobbies, special skills, etc.)

How were you encouraged to join our Massachusetts Society? Through friends, interest in genealogy, related organizations, other?

Name of Proposer * _____

Name of Secunder * _____

*Must be Member of Massachusetts Society for at least 2 years

Two Current Board Members Who Will Speak For Candidate: (proposer will identify names)

**After completing form, please return to: Corresponding Secretary, NSCDA-MA
55 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Revised January 2015