

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY



The National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor was founded by Miss Mary Florence Taney and thirteen associates in Covington, Kentucky on May 15, 1921. Miss Taney possessed a great love of country. Honoring our commissioned officer ancestors was among her goals in founding this society.

Miss Taney was an author, educator, and patron of the arts. She was born on 15 May 1856 and died 9 October 1936.

The Society was inactive during the Second World War. However, it was reorganized in Atlanta, Georgia on May 15, 1946 by Mrs. Kirby-Smith Anderson.

We are a Society based on Honor, Travel, and Fellowship of the membership.

May 15th is commemorated by our Society as Founder's Day.

For Further information please contact:

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2023-2025 OFFICERS

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The National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor

Founded: 15 May 1921
Covington, Kentucky

Miss Mary Florence Taney
Founder and President General
1921-1928



Reorganized 15 May 1946
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Kirby-Smith Anderson
President General 1946-1952

Visit our website:

www.nsdch.org

MOTTO

“NOBLESSE OBLIGE”

(RANK CARRIES OBLIGATION)

Our motto signifies that each member is to carry a high standard of living, loyalty to Country, and Honor among women, especially for those with whom we are banded together.



OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

- To elevate the standard of HONOR among women;
- To perpetuate, honor and revere the memory of our ancestors whose lives to an eminent degree exemplify this trait;
- To establish and perpetuate a fraternity among women who are lineal descendants of valiant officers of one or more of the earlier American wars, by banding ourselves together as loyal and patriotic citizens of the United States of America.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

A woman is eligible for membership in The National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor who is not less than sixteen (16) years of age, of good moral character and reputation, and who is of lineal descent from a commissioned officer who served in one or more of the American wars during the years 1607 through 1865 or from a Colonial Governor who served in the Colonial Period 1607 to 1775.

The periods of the early wars are:

Colonial Wars	1607-1775
American Revolution	1775-1783
War of 1812	1784-1815
Mexican War	1845-1848
War Between the States.....	1861-1865
Colonial Governors	1607-1775

A Junior member is a woman between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty-five (35). They are the life-blood of our society without their numbers increasing each year, the society will soon decrease in membership. For that reason, a Junior is a most welcome addition to any State Society and is encouraged to accept offices and chairmanships whenever possible, with the understanding that school, work and family responsibilities sometimes limit the time available to participate. A Junior member is entitled to the same privileges afforded a non-junior member.

MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION ONLY.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

In April, The National Society of the Dames of the Court of Honor welcomes members and guests to their annual Fellowship Breakfast in Washington, D.C.

The National Conference of the Dames of the Court of Honor is held at various locations around the United States in the autumn of each year.

It is the practice for the State Societies to issue an invitation to host the National Conference .

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Starting in 2020 the Society will be sending a donation to The American Battlefield Trust to support the maintenance and restoration of the battlefields in which our ancestors fought and died for our freedoms.

Contributions are made annually in support of the Cathedral of the Pines in New Hampshire.

The RAIN Scholarship is endowed, and state Societies can donate annually to the endowment to increase the amount given to a student at the University of North Dakota School of Nursing.

The Society participates in the Annual Award Ceremonies at the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, CT, and the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO; by presenting an award to an outstanding graduating commissioned officer.