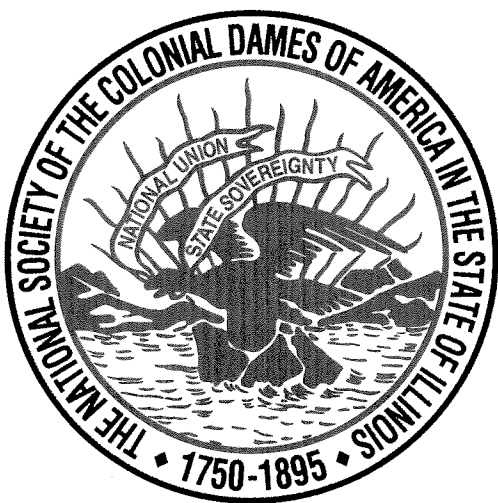


The National Society
of The Colonial Dames
of America
in The State
of Illinois



A Centennial History
1896-1996

This Centennial History celebrates the incorporation of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Illinois in 1896. We celebrate the achievements of the Society over the last 100 years.

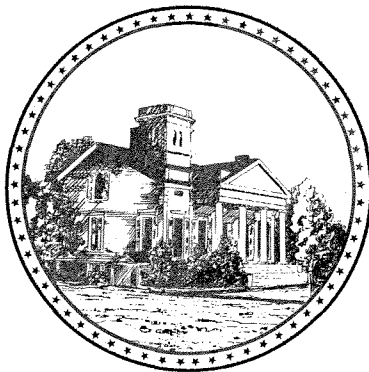
In this year, 1996, we are proud to recognize the progress we have made to preserve our National and State histories. The education of adults and children continues to be a major purpose of the Illinois Society.

Approaching the 21st century, we will meet the challenges and adapt to the needs of the world ahead.

This Centennial history is composed of parts of past anniversary histories and recent Illinois Society events. My thanks go to Miss Diane Curtis, Mrs. William G. McMillan, Mrs. J. Jay Nichols and Mrs. Donald R. Weber for publishing this booklet.

June 1996

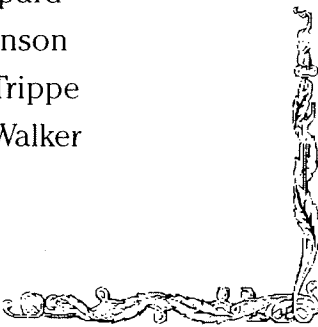
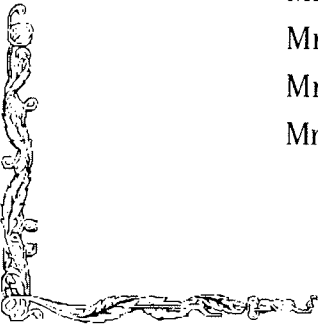
Sarah Ellsworth Bogan
President



Organized December 11, 1895
Incorporated June 30, 1896

**CHARTER MEMBERS
OF THE ILLINOIS SOCIETY**

Mrs. Ralph Emerson
Miss Effie L. Epler
Mrs. Henry B. Favill
Mrs. Charles H. Ferry
Mrs. Horace E. Fisk
Mrs. Daniel G. Goodwin
Miss Maria S. Johnston
Mrs. M. B. Kennedy
Mrs. Samuel H. Kerfoot
Mrs. Julia Duncan Kirby
Miss Cornelia Gray Lunt
Mrs. Thomas S. McClelland
Mrs. Henry B. Mason
Mrs. Samuel M. Nickerson
Mrs. Ephraim A. Otis
Mrs. James C. Peasley
Mrs. William S. Potwin
Mrs. Henry S. Robbins
Mrs. Henry M. Shepard
Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson
Mrs. Martha G. W. Trippe
Mrs. Caroline Rose Walker



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY 1896-1996

The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America was founded in 1891 by a group of Philadelphia ladies dedicated to Colonial history, historic preservation and patriotism. By 1894, ancestral State Societies had been established in all of the original thirteen Colonial States and the District of Columbia. In 1896, 13 Associate State Societies were incorporated. Illinois had the honor of being the second Society to be incorporated on June 30, 1896, after Maine, which was incorporated June 24, 1896.

The Illinois Society was founded on December 5, 1895 at a tea in the home of Mrs. Samuel H. Kerfoot. The first National President, Mrs. Townsend, had requested Mrs. Kerfoot to be the Illinois organizer and she became our first President, serving from 1895-1898. Incorporation by the Illinois Secretary of State followed on June 30, 1896. The Illinois Society chose as its Seal an adaptation of an earlier Seal of the State of Illinois. There were twenty-two charter members.

In 1891, another group with similar goals was formed in New York City, now known as Colonial Dames of America. Although at one point it was thought NSCDA and CDA might merge, it did not happen. Mrs. Kerfoot gave valuable aid to the National Society, assisting in the processes whereby it gained the exclusive right to use "National" in its title, ending a conflict over its use with the CDA. She was also instrumental in determining and adjusting the relationship of Associate States to the National organization and was the first to express the willingness of Associate State Societies to cover their own expenses when attending National Society meetings.

The Illinois Dames first met in homes of members, but gained a permanent home at The Fortnightly of Chicago in 1923 through the efforts of past President Mrs. Henry S. Robbins, when Mrs. Holmes Forsyth was President.

Bylaws for the Illinois Society were published in the first yearbook in 1902. Over the years, the bylaws have been kept up to date and in accordance with the National Society's Acts in Council and Constitution, thanks to the hard work of successive bylaws committees.

In 1897 the Illinois Society purchased and presented to the Chicago Historical Society, for preservation in its archives, three very valuable French manuscripts illustrative of the colonial history of the Illinois Territory. Because the United States was at war with Spain in 1898, generous donations were collected in cash and food from our members to aid our armies, and after peace was declared, the Illinois Society continued to help veterans and their families.

The next area of concern was how to help the many immigrants coming into the Chicago area. In 1900 the Illinois Society created a scholarship committee which gave scholarships to students at the University of Chicago. In return for this financial aid, the young men were asked to teach American history to evening and Saturday classes of immigrants. Those chosen continued successfully to teach their classes and in 1908 scholarships were given to history students at Northwestern University, requiring that they teach American history classes at the Northwestern Settlement House. One year three young women were chosen to teach children, but problems of location canceled that effort.

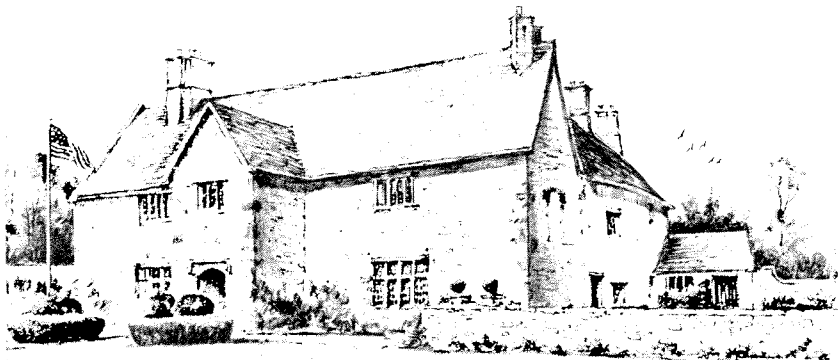
As this work progressed, it became evident that bilingual texts were needed. Through the interest and help of a young Bohemian, Jaroslav Zmrhal, a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools, a Bohemian Civic Primer, printed in parallel columns, was published and paid for by the Dames in 1911-12. This was soon followed by Polish (1914) and Lithuanian (1915) editions. These texts were in great demand in schools, libraries and in other cities. Mr. Zmrhal actively assisted in this program for many years. Finally, the Illinois Dames persuaded him to accept a scholarship for graduate study as a "thank you" for his long and voluntary service to the program. In 1918 an Italian edition was printed. This was followed by an English revision in 1920 and a Yiddish edition in 1921. In 1920 two Braille copies were made.

In 1928 we sponsored a poster design competition. The subject was "How to Help Reduce Illiteracy in the United States." The judges included Lorado Taft, sculptor; John T. McCutcheon, cartoonist; and Max Mason, President of the University of Chicago. The \$300 first prize was won by Leon Friend and depicted a mother and a child and said "Grow With Him." The \$50 third prize was won by Nancy Barnhart and showed a father, mother

and their young son and stated "Can You Read English
Learn To Read, Write And Speak The English Language.
The Gates Of Opportunity Are Open."

As the political and educational climate of Chicago changed, the Illinois Society changed its emphasis from working with immigrants to stressing the act of becoming new citizens. This reflected the change in the National Society where the Americanization Committee changed its name to "Patriotic Service" and gave wider scope for projects in the various states. Illinois began to host receptions for new citizens in downtown Chicago in conjunction with the Citizenship Council of Metropolitan Chicago. "The Parade of Flags" program was first presented in 1971 and the slide program for George Mason and another program on "The Great Seal" were soon added to the historical programs for the schoolchildren of the Chicago area. The Scholarship committee expanded its horizons, while becoming part of programs initiated at the National and Regional levels. An American History Scholarship, funded by the National Society, is awarded to a deserving college student every nine years by Illinois. A second scholarship was added in 1994, which is funded by the states in Region II and is also awarded on a rotating basis. A Congressional Essay contest is held each year for high school students. Through local and National funding, the winners are sent to Washington, DC for a week long seminar on how our government works. Illinois has received special recognition for the number of state and national winners it has sent. Our support of the American Indian Nurse Scholarship Fund has grown to the point where the Illinois Society fully funds its own Indian Nurse scholarship for a Native American living in this state.

The Illinois Society has ably supported the National Society projects such as sharing in the funding of a monument in the Arlington National Cemetery honoring the soldiers of the Spanish-American War. Later added inscriptions on it honored all veterans, men and women, who have fought for our country. During both World Wars, Illinois members assisted in Red Cross fund raising and service. They helped the National Society raise money to equip and supply several hospital ships during the Vietnam conflict. Other memorials which received contributions were: the Cape Cod Memorial commemorating the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock; the restoration of Pohick Church in



Sulgrave Manor
England



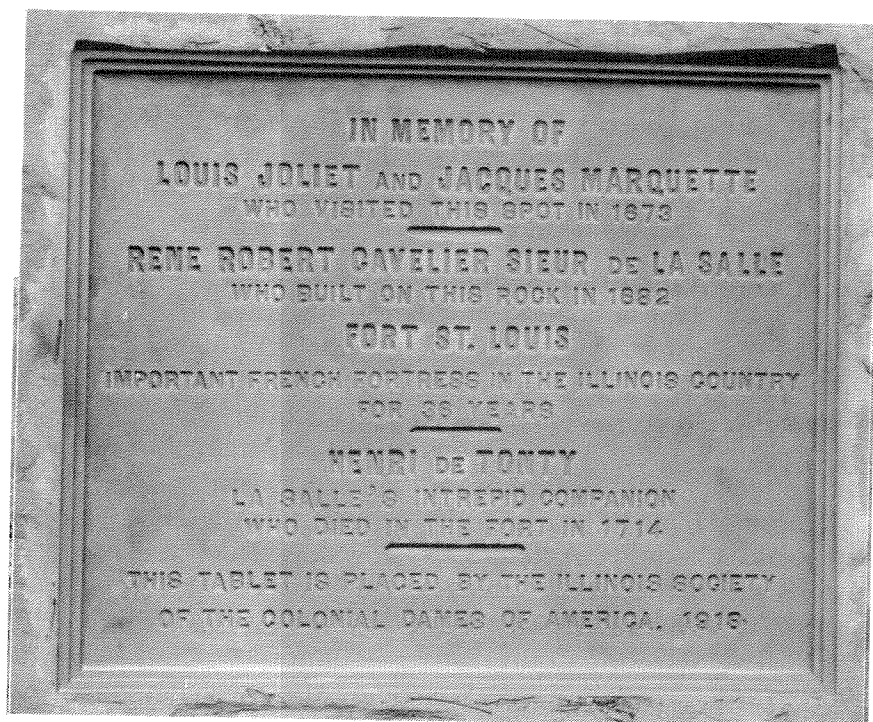
Gunston Hall
Lorton, Virginia

Lorton, Virginia, where George Washington worshipped and which he may have designed; and the Jamestown fund for restoring its historic buildings. Since the beginning of the National Society's involvement, Illinois has been a generous contributor to Dumbarton House, our National Headquarters; Gunston Hall, home of George Mason; and Sulgrave Manor, the Washington family ancestral home in England.

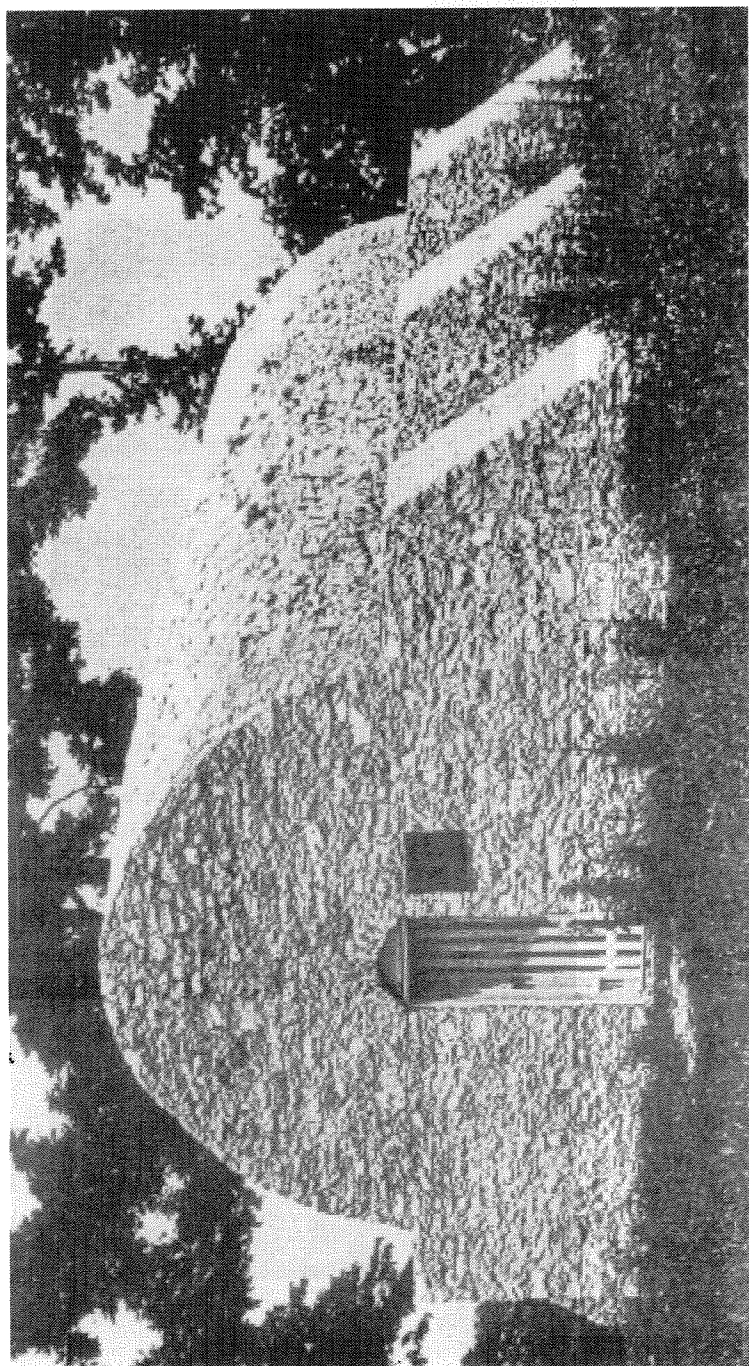
Few people realize that on the Mississippi River at Fort de Chartres near the southern tip of Illinois, a spirited French life existed before George Washington was born. Through the years, the Illinois Dames have maintained a deep interest in Illinois history. Papers have been presented at meetings by both guest speakers and our own members. Two results of historic research were published in 1930, "Historic Trails in Illinois," a folder map, and "Outlines of Illinois History." In 1940 the Illinois Society published a book for children called "Illinois Grows Up," which was used extensively in the area's public schools. In 1963 "The French Governors of Illinois" by Mrs. Helen W. Mumford was published and in 1964 "Historic Court Houses in Illinois" by Lucy Miller Sturges and "Why Illinois was French" by Mrs. Jocelyn Kennedy (now Mrs. Samuel G. Taylor, III) were published. These were followed in 1967 by three lectures entitled "The French Advance in the New World" by Mrs. Jocelyn Kennedy. The "Illinois Portrait Index" was completed in 1972 and has now been updated and republished for this Centennial year.

Over the years the Historical Activities Committee placed markers at special sites in Illinois. In 1918 Miss Cornelia Williams, President, placed a tablet at Starved Rock to commemorate the building of Fort St. Louis by LaSalle and Tonti, which insured control of the important Illinois River waterway. In 1919 Mrs. Paul Blatchford, President, placed a tablet on the old Stone Powder Magazine at Fort de Chartres, commemorating the glory of French influence in Illinois. On the occasion of our thirtieth birthday celebration with our National President, Mrs. Joseph Lamar in attendance, two tablets were placed on the Michigan Avenue bridge in memory of LaSalle, Tonti, Marquette and Joliet.

In the early 1800's, Fort Dearborn, situated at the mouth of the Chicago River on Lake Michigan, guarded a small trading post, that later became one of the largest cities in the United States. In



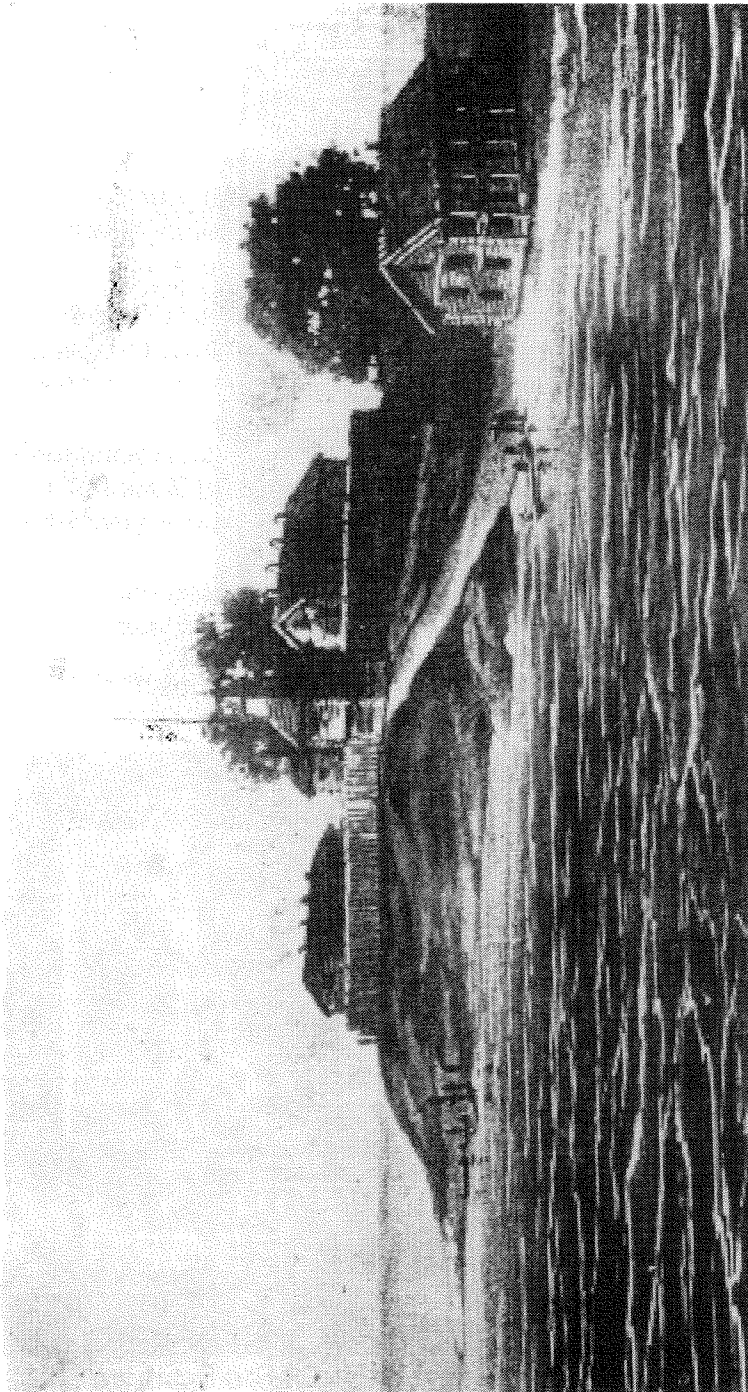
Bronze Marker
 Starved Rock, Illinois



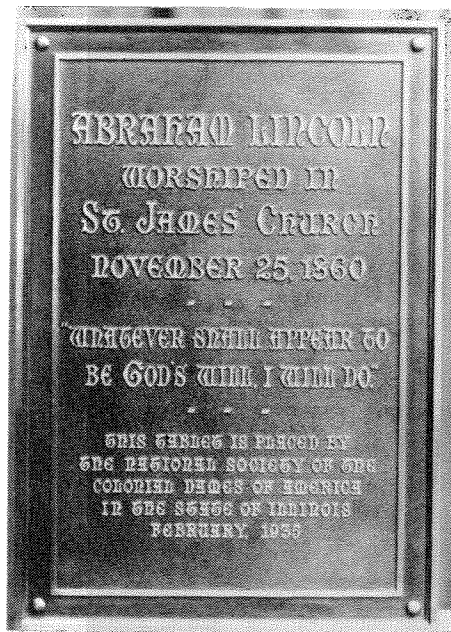
Fort de Chartres
Old Stone Powder Magazine



Bronze tablets on Michigan Avenue bridge in memory of Joliet, Marquette, LaSalle and Tonti.



Fort Dearborn — 1803
Chicago



Bronze tablet commemorating visit of Abraham Lincoln to St. James Church in 1860.



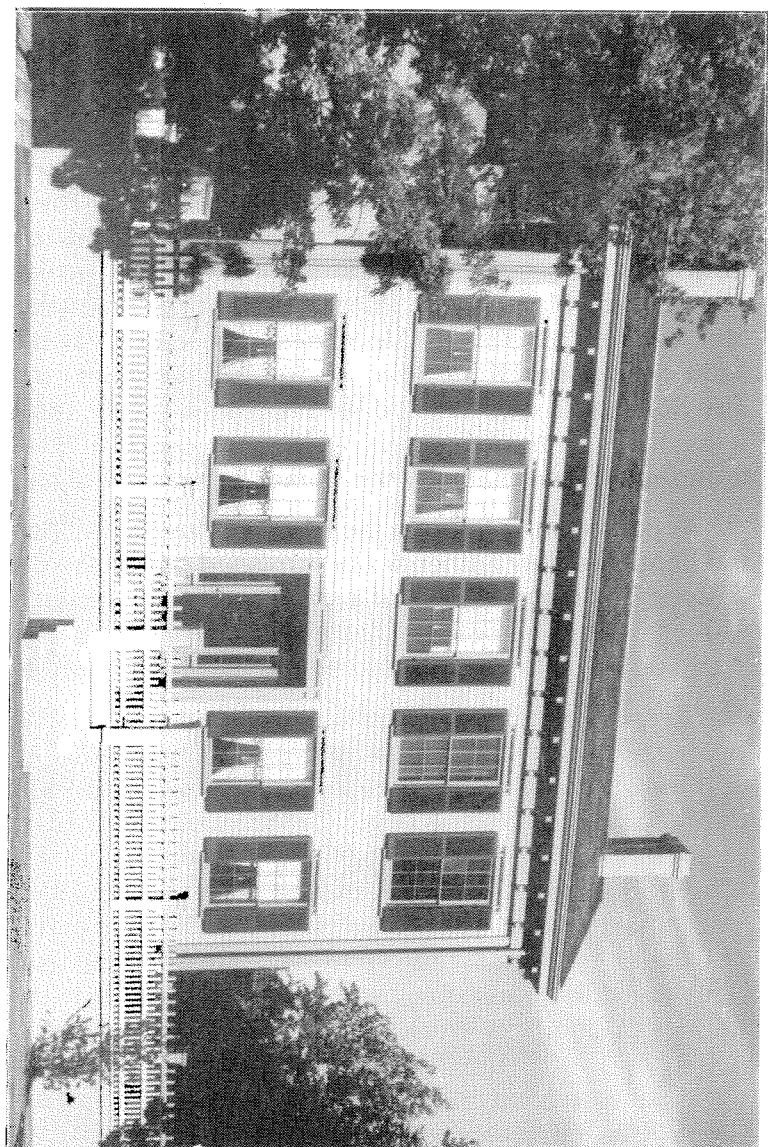
Bronze tablet commemorating site of Fort Dearborn located at Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive.

1932, a tablet was placed on the building where Fort Dearborn once stood and in 1935, a marker was placed at the St. James Episcopal Church in Chicago in memory of Abraham Lincoln, who attended services there while President. As this year marked our fortieth anniversary, the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Illinois and the Illinois Society of Mayflower Descendants, along with various political figures joined the Illinois Dames for this special occasion.

One of the objects of NSCDA is "to preserve and restore buildings connected with the early history of our country." The Illinois Society's first endeavor in museum properties was to raise a fund for furnishing the second floor of the only home ever owned by Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Prime movers in this effort were members Mrs. William T. Bacon and Mrs. Ernest Ives, sister of then Governor Adlai Stevenson. By 1953 two bedrooms had been completed. The State of Illinois owned and maintained the building until it was taken over by the National Park Service. In 1989 a further contribution was made by the Dames in memory of Mrs. Bacon.

As part of our interest in the French influence in Illinois history the Illinois Society authentically furnished part of the Chicago Historical Society's replica of a small eighteenth century French Illinois house. This was on display from 1963 for about twenty years, at which time it was dismantled and put in storage.

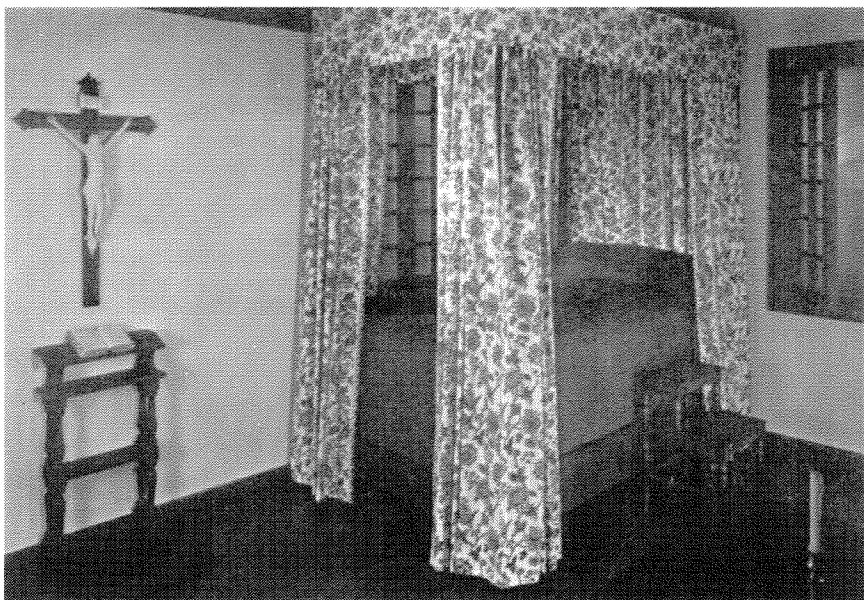
The most extensive undertaking for our Society in Museum Properties, was the furnishing of the Henry B. Clarke House, commonly known at the time as the "Widow Clarke House." This Greek Revival house was begun in 1836 and is the oldest surviving house in the City of Chicago, having survived the Great Fire of 1871. After it was sold by members of the Clarke family in the 1870's, it was moved from its original location at 16th Street and Michigan Avenue to 45th Street and Wabash Avenue. The family who bought and moved the house lived there until 1941, when they sold it to the St. Paul in Christ Church which occupied the premises until the 1970's. In 1937 the City of Chicago recognized the building as the oldest surviving house in the city and in 1971 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings. When the congregation outgrew the building, it was purchased by the City of Chicago in 1977 and moved to its present location at 18th Street and Indiana Avenue as a part of the Prairie Avenue Historic District.



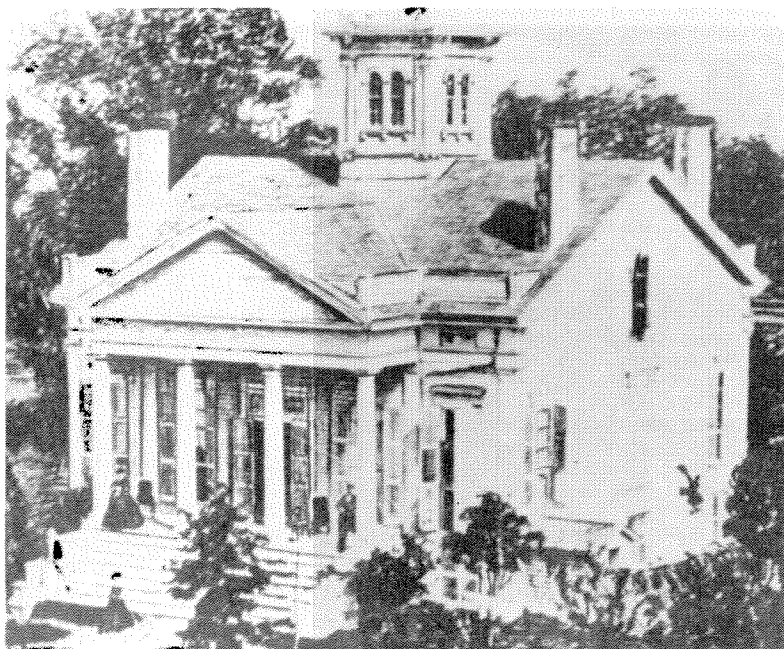
Abraham Lincoln spent the years from 1844 to 1860 in this house,
the only home he ever owned.



Common Room - French Illinois House 1700 - 65.

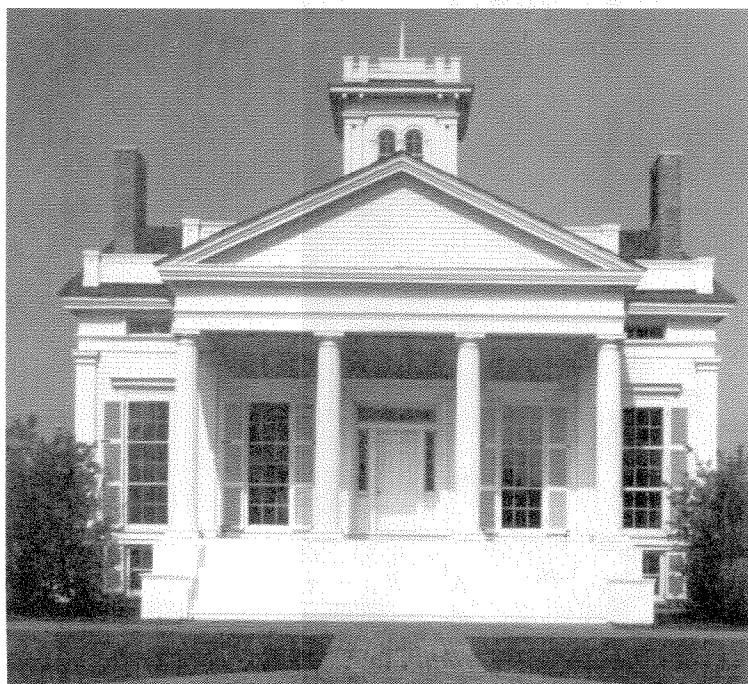


Bedroom - French Illinois House 1700 - 65



(Courtesy of the Chicago Historical Society)

Daguerreotype — Clarke House c. 1860



Henry B. and Caroline P. Clarke House c. 1990.

Our Illinois Dames were contacted by the City to see if we would be interested in entering into a joint venture to restore and preserve the house. As we had finished our participation in the Lincoln Home and were looking for another project, we eagerly agreed. A third party joined the partnership, the Chicago Architecture Foundation. A joint agreement was signed by: the City, who would own the house; the Chicago Architecture Foundation, who would administer it; and our Illinois Society, which would furnish the first floor in an accurate portrayal of the 1835-1850s period, when the Clarkes were in residence.

Tremendous expenditures in time, money and donated furnishings of the period resulted in the opening of the Widow Clarke House to the public in 1982, when Mrs. John C. Munson was president. Countless hours have been given by our members, from serving on the Clarke House Committee, to fund raising, to being docents, to inventorying the collection and to helping with housekeeping chores. The office of Museum Properties Chairman, held by Mesdames Charles H. Brown, John S. Graettinger, Louis C. Duncan, Diane Curtis, Robert C. Hodgkins and Jane Lord, has been a great responsibility and their leadership has been outstanding. Other individuals who early on were prime motivators in helping establish our relationship with Clarke House were, Mrs. Gardner Brown, Mrs. Uri B. Grannis, Jr. and Mrs. Royce A. Hoyle, Jr. In 1990, the Henry B. Clarke House was accredited by the American Association of Museums. It is the first museum house in Illinois to receive this status and one of the first Dames museum properties to do so.

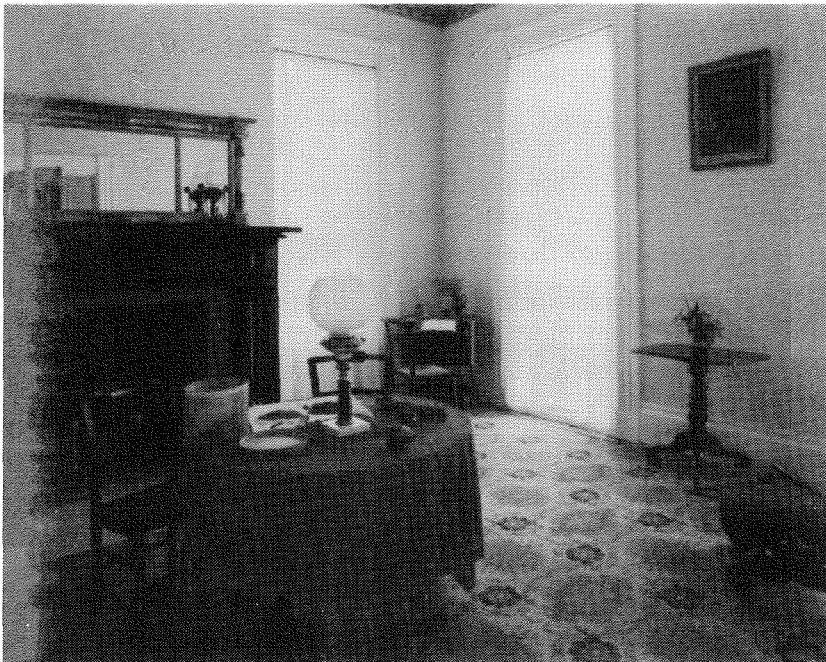
A new agreement is now being drafted to reflect the substitution of the Prairie Avenue House Museums (PAHM) for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, which has changed its focus to exclude its involvement with Prairie Avenue.

Over the years the Dames added to their original commitment of furnishing and maintaining the first floor of the house, by providing furnishings for all three floors, as well as a superb introductory gallery. In addition, the Dames now provide funds for marketing and educational programs to reach the public and Chicago schoolchildren. In order to more properly reflect women's role in history, the house will now be known as the Henry B. and Caroline P. Clarke House Museum.



Photograph Courtesy of Judith Bromley

Kitchen - Clarke House



Photograph Courtesy of Judith Bromley

Northeast Parlor - Clarke House

Throughout the past hundred years, the Illinois Society has continued to support the National Society in historic and educational efforts, has taken an active part in Regional meetings and training for our officers and has been proud to have members serve at the Regional and National levels. Elected to serve as officers of the National Society were: Miss Cornelia Williams, Historian 1916-19; Mrs. Holmes Forsyth, Vice President 1931-34; and Mrs. LaRhett L. Stuart, Jr., Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer 1980-86. Currently Mrs. Thomas J. Hoffmann is the Assistant Treasurer. In addition, many of our Illinois Dames have served as chairmen and members of National committees and on the Dumbarton, Gunston Hall and Sulgrave Manor boards.

As the Illinois Society looks back over its 100 fruitful years, it is especially proud of the part it played in the early years and growth of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. It is hard to say whether the outstanding women who led the Society or the projects espoused by them have been more significant to its history. Both have been important to its success.

In this abbreviated Centennial History, it has been impossible to cite all the Dames who have played roles in the development of the Illinois Society. Those who have been mentioned were just a small sample of the many members who contributed their special skills. Please also refer to the list of founding members, past presidents and Roll of Honor members in this history.

What is our future? The flexibility in focus of both the National and State organizations keeps The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in The State of Illinois vital and attracts new members through its wide range of opportunities to serve. To quote Mrs. Paul Blatchford, who wrote the forty year history of the Illinois Society, "Let us not forget we are here because of distinguished services rendered by our ancestors to our country in those early days and mindful of our responsibility, use our leadership wisely." We look forward to a successful second hundred years.

ROLL OF HONOR

Mrs. Samuel H. Kerfoot	Mrs. Charles P. Sturges
Mrs. Samuel M. Nickerson	Mrs. William T. Bacon
Mrs. Henry S. Robbins	Mrs. Charles H. Brown
Mrs. John C. Welling	Mrs. Edward S. Price
Miss Cornelia G. Lunt	Mrs. Richard H. Hobbs
Mrs. James M. Walker	Mrs. F. Campbell Derby
Mrs. Robert B. Gregory	Mrs. Gardner Brown
Mrs. William S. Potwin	Mrs. Earle B. Fowler
Mrs. Henry B. Mason	Mrs. Gerald A. Sivage
Miss Cornelia B. Williams	Mrs. James A. Hynes
Mrs. Paul Blatchford	Mrs. LaRhett L. Stuart, Jr.
Mrs. Holmes Forsyth	Mrs. Albert D. Williams
Mrs. Heaton Owsley	Mrs. Paul W. Guenzel
Mrs. Carroll S. Sudler	Mrs. Hunt Hamill
Mrs. Robert G. Peck	Mrs. Royce A. Hoyle, Jr.
Mrs. William B. Greenlee	Mrs. John W. Baird
Mrs. John Crerar	Mrs. Louis C. Duncan
Miss Anna P. Williams	Mrs. John S. Graettinger
Mrs. Edgar J. Goospeed	Mrs. John C. Munson
Mrs. Howell B. Erminger, Jr.	Mrs. Edgar J. Uihlein
Miss Frances Whedon	Mrs. Charles S. Potter
Mrs. Louis E. Laflin, Jr.	Mrs. George W. Veness
Mrs. Samuel G. Taylor, III	Mrs. Donald R. Weber
Mrs. Thomas R. Gowenlock, II	Mrs. J. Jay Nichols
Mrs. Manly S. Mumford	Mrs. Thomas J. Hoffmann





Dumbarton House
Washington, DC

PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Samuel H. Kerfoot	1895 - 1898
Mrs. Samuel M. Nickerson	1899 - 1900
Mrs. Henry S. Robbins	1901 - 1904
Mrs. John C. Welling	1904 - 1905
Miss Cornelia G. Lunt	1905 - 1908
Mrs. James S. Walker	1908 - 1909
Mrs. Robert B. Gregory	1909 - 1911
Mrs. William S. Potwin	1911 - 1912
Mrs. Henry B. Mason	1912 - 1916
Miss Cornelia B. Williams	1916 - 1919

National Historian 1916 - 1919

Mrs. Paul Blatchford	1919 - 1922
Mrs. Holmes Forsyth	1922 - 1926

National Third Vice President 1931 - 1934

Mrs. Heaton Owsley	1926 - 1929
Mrs. Carroll H. Sudler	1929 - 1932
Mrs. Robert Gray Peck	1932 - 1935
Mrs. William B. Greenlee	1935 - 1938
Mrs. John Crerar	1938 - 1941
Mrs. Roy E. Sturtevant	1941 - 1944
Mrs. Paul B. Magnuson	1944 - 1946
Miss Frances E. Whedon	1946 - 1949
Mrs. John S. Broeksmit	1949 - 1952
Mrs. Louis E. Laflin, Jr.	1952 - 1954
Mrs. Edward S. Price	1954 - 1957
Mrs. O. Paul Decker (Mrs. Edwin N. Asmann).	1957 - 1959
Mrs. Richard L. Kennedy, Jr. (Mrs. Samuel G. Taylor, III)	1959 - 1962
Mrs. J. Horton Fall, III.	1962 - 1964
Mrs. Richard H. Hobbs.	1964 - 1966
Mrs. Charles H. Brown	1966 - 1968
Mrs. Hunt Hamill	1968 - 1970
Mrs. Gardner Brown	1970 - 1973
Mrs. James A. Hynes	1973 - 1975
Mrs. LaRhett L. Stuart, Jr.	1975 - 1977

National Assistant Treasurer and National Treasurer 1980 - 1986

Mrs. Gerald A. Sivage	1977 - 1980
Mrs. Royce A. Hoyle, Jr.	1980 - 1982
Mrs. John C. Munson	1982 - 1984
Mrs. John W. Baird	1984 - 1986
Mrs. Edgar J. Uihlein	1986 - 1988
Mrs. Donald R. Weber	1988 - 1990
Mrs. Thomas J. Hoffmann	1990 - 1993

National Assistant Treasurer 1994 - 1996

Miss Diane Curtis	1993 - 1996
Mrs. Ralph A. L. Bogan, Jr.	1996 -

Virtutes majorum filiae conservant

