The American Village: Keeping Alive the Spirit of Citizenship

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With the coming of September, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges all citizens to celebrate Constitution Week, September 17-23. This month is an excellent time for Americans to read the Bill of Rights and remember the Founding Fathers whose inspiration and genius created a document that has endured for 214 years. As citizens we should be mindful of our responsibilities to educate our children about the principles upon which our government is based and our role as citizens in preserving our republic. Education is empowering because it provides knowledge to reason and to make intelligent decisions. If our children are to become contributing citizens, they must learn American history and understand how they may participate and preserve their heritage of freedom.

In this issue, the spirit of the past is beautifully displayed in a sterling collection of antique silver. The work of America’s earliest silversmiths provides a sense of the lifestyles of our ancestors and an appreciation for the artistic talents of these colonial craftsmen. A different kind of spirit may linger in some of America’s historic and haunted homes. The stories of our ancestors make interesting tales when they are surrounded by mystery and legend. Preserving these stories provides a colorful background for uncovering the facts and fallacies of your lineage as you seek to discover your ancestors. Researching your family’s history is a fascinating and sometimes frustrating endeavor—but it becomes addictive! The more you learn about your forebears, the more you want to know so that you peel back the layers of your past in order to understand your present.

The DAR genealogical research library in Washington is the best place to locate your roots from the past and how they link to your future. Facts, rather than fiction, are the basics of the DAR family research files, with authentic documentation to verify and prove your family’s heritage. We invite you to visit our headquarters at 1776 D Street, Northwest, and discover your past—where the American Spirit is alive and well!
Increasing Membership
Dear Editor:

I became a member of DAR in October 1993. I have worked with Membership since 1995 when I was appointed Membership Chairman: in 1996, our chapter gained 24 new members; in 1997, we gained 30 new members; in 1998, we gained 18 new members; in 1999, our chapter gained 11 new members; and in 2000, we gained 16 new members. In 1996 and 1997, we won First Place in the State for most new members by application; in 1997, we were Second in the Nation; in 1998 and 2000, we won Second Place in the State for the most new members by application; and in 1999, we won Third Place in the State for most new members by application.

Our chapter is located in the small community of Louisa, Lawrence County, Kentucky. If we have a population of 2,000 we can increase our membership from less than 20 members in 1995 to 109 members as of January 1, 2001, any chapter can. I feel our chapter has brought in new members by having prospective member workshops and working with prospects on one on one through the application process. Our chapter rewards members who bring in six new members by giving them the Member for Member bar.

I think chapters sometime feel threatened by new members, so I would like to let them know how great it is to have new members to share information and responsibilities with. I would like the chapters to know how important it is for them to choose a membership chairman who is self-motivated and willing to donate time to this chairmanship. We need to show enthusiasm and let our communities know more about DAR. We need more publicity on all of our local, state and national projects. 

Beulah L. Greene
Louisa, Kentucky

NSDAR Pride
Dear Editor:

On days such as Independence Day, Memorial Day and Flag Day the banners of patriotism are flown across the United States. As a member of the NSDAR, my banner is always high as our organization works hard to support and foster patriotism among our members and American youth.

Knowing the enthusiasm of friends who were DAR members, I became interested and wondered if, perhaps, I could qualify for membership by establishing lineage back to a Revolutionary War soldier. I considered this would honor my mother’s ancestors and also my mother. My maternal grandfather, Arthur Embry, said the Embry family came over with Oglethorpe to Georgia.

At the DAR Library, with the help of genealogists, I found that, in truth, the first two Embrys came to Jamestown, Virginia in 1609. Their descendants followed the large waves of migration through North and South Carolina to Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Texas and on west. They were surely the pioneers of our country who warrant the DAR recordings of their lives and efforts.

I spent 10 years researching records to qualify for DAR membership. It was fortunate for me when my husband and I moved from New Jersey to Washington, DC, and I had the DAR Library and all its wonderful resources close at hand! Finally an enthusiastic Georgia regent of the Embry line sent me the piece of evidence needed to prove lineage.

Despite the unbridge our organization is subject to at times, I am proud to be a member. Our magazine is a fine historical publication, which brings history to life through stories of our ancestors.

Our notable American quilt collection complements the library material by giving intimate reminders of the women who nurtured home and family through the early centuries of our national life under most difficult conditions. They both are well worth a visit.

Sincerely,

Frances McShane Waespy
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Editor’s Note: Frances served in the WAAC (Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps) from April 24, 1944, to December 10, 1945.

Constitution Week
Dear Editor:

It’s a source of pride that since 1966, our society observes Constitution Week from September 17–23. Beyond our own membership, each of us can take this opportunity to reflect on the fundamental influence the U.S. Constitution has had upon our country’s history and development, as well as its continued impact on the course of world events.

We set aside this week to recognize our individual and collective responsibility for protecting and preserving the Constitution, for recognizing it as the foundation of our American way of life and for studying the historic events surrounding the creation and adoption of the Constitution.

It is no less important to reflect on current events in the context of the historic foundation of our government. How many topical discussions revolve around the philosophy of our Founding Fathers? Would we interpret differently the arguments currently being debated, including the most recent presidential election, the preservation of individual liberty and right to privacy in this Internet age? How can we as individuals—representing the ideals of the Constitution and the American Revolution—lend our voices to these debates?

How often it surprises us that the validity of a document conceived and implemented over 200 years ago remains as solid as ever. Let us each take the occasion of Constitution Week to reinvigorate public debate over fundamental issues and ideas that, once engaged in, will continue to show the United States and our way of life as an example to people throughout the world who are striving to preserve freedom.

Sincerely,

Mary-Frances Faraji
Summit, New Jersey

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage you to send us your questions and comments.

American Spirit Editor
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Washington, DC
20006-5303
DARMagazine@aol.com
Please limit letters to 200 words.
C apturing your family's heritage and passing it on through photographs is one of the most popular and affecting ways to ensure that your family's past is never forgotten. A picture can tell a thousand words—and if you preserve your photos correctly, they can be cherished for generations to come. Take steps now to protect old photos and to preserve today's memories by heeding storage and preservation suggestions from the experts.

Preserving Yesterday's Treasures

Old family photos are treasures that deserve special care. Metal-based portraits, called daguerreotypes or tintypes, are prone to bending, corrosion and tarnish; and the old paper photos taken by previous generations are easily torn and tend to become brittle. It is important to bring cracked, bent or torn photos to a professional for repair instead of attempting restoration on your own. Check your local yellow pages under the "Film Retouching and Restoration" category to find an appropriate specialist.

You may also find a professional in your area that is able to copy your old photo so that you may enjoy it without worrying about further deterioration. Once the old photo has been repaired, be sure to store it carefully, away from moisture and direct light. Always handle old photos on the edges or with gloves to prevent the oil from your skin from damaging the emulsion. To be sure they will last, store your heirloom photos wrapped in high-quality, acid free paper in a stable environment with good ventilation.

Taking Photos That Last

Whether you are capturing memories digitally or on film, in general, black and white lasts longer than color. Color photos you snapped in the 1970s may have already started to fade or turn yellow. The silver used to create black and white photos is more stable than the chemical process used in color prints, so black and white photos stand the test of time. If you prefer color for special moments such as weddings and family portraits, there are steps to take...
to make sure those photos will last. The secret is in the film you use and the paper your photos are printed on. As with prints from film negatives, fading of digital prints is best prevented by printing on high-quality photo paper. Using film and paper that are proven to be long lasting is the first step to preserving visual memories. (See sidebar.)

**Protecting Your Photo Collection**

Many of us love to take pictures of our family at annual gatherings or milestones. Taking time to organize the collection of prints you have amassed over the years may seem daunting, but the outcome is well worth the effort. To protect cherished memories, today's albums are made of archival quality papers instead of plastic or self-stick pages. Transferring your photos from old albums will help prevent any further damage from plastic deterioration and will give you a chance to attractively display your photos.

If you have taken digital photos and decide to store them electronically, remember that access to electronically saved images is not quite as reliable as the more traditional method of storing and viewing keepsakes. If your computer breaks down or the disk containing your photos becomes corrupt, your memories are lost. A print or slide of your memory will serve future generations forever if you follow preservation tips.

**Creating Your Album**

- Be sure to use a soft pencil, either a number 10 or 14, to mark the back of a photo. Ink can bleed through the photo and ruin the face of the image over time, and indentations from a pen will mark the surface of your image permanently.
- Create memory books with acid free, archival quality paper and adhesives instead of using albums with plastic sleeves or "magnetic pages." Self stick pages, polyvinyl chloride sleeves and regular glue can harm your photos.
- Record memories on the pages of your photo book using acid-free markers and pens. The ink from a regular marker can cause pages to deteriorate and fade quickly.
- The best place to store your photos and albums is a living room bookshelf or a bedroom closet with adequate ventilation. Photos are susceptible to cracking and deterioration from high heat and humidity.
- Store completed albums flat, supported on all edges to prevent the pages from warping.
- Display your photos away from direct light and rotate them with others you may want to display. Any visible light, not just ultraviolet light, will fade photographs.
- Always handle negatives on their edges or with gloves, and try to keep the surface clean to avoid scratches. The best way to store negatives is in a clear, inert-plastic negative holder, which can be stored in a three-ring binder or file drawer. Or, file your negatives in an archival quality box. Ask your developer to apply archive-safe paper to your negatives for easy handling.

**THE PROOF IS IN THE PAPER**

To ensure that your color photos will last, these films and photo papers have been developed to stand the test of time:

**FILMS:**
- Professional films: Kodak Ektar, Ektapress Gold, and Vericolor III.
- Amateur films: Fujicolor Super G 200 Film, 3M ScotchColor 200 Film or Konica Super SR 200 Film.

**PHOTO PAPERS:**

**DIGITAL PHOTO PRINTERS:**
- Epson's Stylus Photo 2000P, Epson Stylus Photo 870, Canon's S800 Bubble Jet Photo and Epson's Stylus Photo 890.

Be sure to purchase your archival mounting, adhesive and paper materials from a reputable supplier. Products can be purchased from these suppliers through the mail:

- **LIGHT IMPRESSIONS**
  www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

- **THE ARCHIVAL COMPANY**
  www.archivalcompany.com

- **THE HOLLINGER CORPORATION**
  CATALOG 1-800-634-0491

- **CREATING KEEPSAKES**
  www.creatingkeepsakes.com
Spirited Adventures

Boston, Massachusetts

Freedom Trail Teaches History Step by Step

Feel like following in the footsteps of American patriots such as Sam Adams, Paul Revere and John Hancock? Then pack your walking shoes and explore Boston's Freedom Trail this fall. Weather-wise, September and October are ideal months to wander the three-mile trail connecting the 16 historic sites that mark Boston's role in the Revolutionary War.

Pick up a map at the Boston Common Visitor Information Center and follow the red-brick path or red-painted line on the sidewalk. The self-guided walking tour, which winds through three Boston neighborhoods, can take two to four hours, depending on your pace and time spent at each landmark. The most popular sites are:
- **The Old State House**, where the Declaration of Independence was first read in Boston.
- **Faneuil Hall**, where angry colonists declared, “No taxation without representation.”
- **Paul Revere’s House**, home of the famous patriot and silversmith, also the oldest house in Boston.
- **Old North Church**, where Robert Newman hung the two lanterns signaling Paul Revere to begin his famous midnight ride.
- **Bunker Hill Monument**, where the phrase “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes” originated.

If walking the entire trail seems daunting, let a ranger from the National Park Service, or a costumed guide from the Freedom Trail Foundation, take you on a 90-minute tour of key downtown sites. There are also sightseeing trolleys that drop off and pick up within easy walking distance of Freedom Trail sites and other Boston attractions.

— Margie Markarian

Mt. Washington, New Hampshire

View Fall Foliage in All Its Glory

Few parts of the country showcase the glorious colors of autumn as beautifully as the White Mountains of New Hampshire. One of the best vantage points for viewing the fall foliage is the historic Mt. Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, the site of the Bretton Woods International Monetary Conference in 1944. Located at the base of Mt. Washington (6,288 feet), this National Historic Landmark is surrounded by 18,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest.

The 200-room hotel offers easy access to miles of hiking trails, the scenic Kancamagus Highway and numerous covered bridges, including the Saco River Bridge and Swift River Bridge (both in North Conway), Honeymoon Bridge (Jackson) and Bartlett Covered Bridge (Glen). There are also plenty of outlet malls, antique shops and craft stores nearby.

Of course, you can always just sit back and enjoy the stunning panorama from the hotel’s 900-foot, wrap-around veranda and octagon-shaped formal dining room. Be sure to take time out for a tour of this turn-of-the-century grand resort, a masterpiece of Spanish Renaissance architecture. The hotel, which was at one time threatened with demolition, has been carefully renovated and restored during the past 10 years and now offers a full-range of recreational activities, family fun and dining facilities year-round.

— Margie Markarian

For More Information…

Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, 1-888-SEE-BOSTON
Hillside School, located on 250 acres in Marlborough, Massachusetts, is a far cry from the public school in New York City that Raymond used to attend. "When I first came to Hillside, I was surprised by the silence. It's so noisy and crazy in New York all the time. I wasn't used to quiet nights." Raymond, a boarder who recently graduated and will attend Brewster Academy this fall, not only got used to Hillside, he thrived in the structured environment designed especially for boys in need of extra support and guidance.

A middle school serving grades five through nine, Hillside was founded in 1901 by Miss Charlotte Drinkwater and her sister Mary Drinkwater Warren in Greenwich, Massachusetts. Originally, Hillside was a farm school for homeless boys who were in need of a community willing to rear and educate orphans. In 1925, Hillside became a DAR-approved school and in 1927, the school relocated to its current campus. Celebrating its centennial this year, Hillside is the only DAR-approved school in the Northeast.

From the start, Hillside's mission was to provide a structured, nurturing place to meet the needs of struggling boys. And while times have changed, the mission remains focused on providing support to boys who struggle, either academically or emotionally. Some of the boys are diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD); others are challenged with behavioral issues; some just need the guidance, structure and extra attention that Hillside affords.

According to Headmaster David Beecher, patience is what makes Hillside special. "Our mission is to serve middle school boys, in need of a supportive, structured, yet challenging academic and residential program. What works best is patience. Programs are important; excellent staffing is critical; top-notch facilities a must. But more important to a young boy than all of those is patience," says Beecher.

On a recent visit, it's clear that the warmth, attentiveness, enthusiasm—and patience—of the staff are key factors in the consistent success Hillside has achieved with its students. As one student who is about to enter 9th grade says, "The teachers care about us. Before I came to Hillside, I went to public school, and I didn't do very well.

Above: Hillside students attending the 2001 summer program.

What works best is patience—programs are important; excellent staffing is critical; top-notch facilities a must.

But more important to a young boy than all of those is patience.
Then I came to Hillside and was amazed that people cared about me. You’re used to these huge classes in public school—and when you come to Hillside, you’re shocked by the small class size. For the first time, I could actually learn.”

The guidance, structure and class size, which ranges from four to 13 students, offered at Hillside are outstanding. Each of these elements is essential in providing the diverse student body with the tools, confidence and accountability necessary to succeed. Another special feature of the distinctive curriculum is a point system, designed to provide students with clear expectations and feedback, rewarding them for positive strides in scholastic effort and personal responsibility.

In keeping with its past, the farm at Hillside still serves as a valuable teaching tool. When the school relocated, the curriculum was expanded to take advantage of the vast farmland. Years ago, students worked on the farm and operated a dairy, which taught responsibility and the importance of a strong work ethic. Though the use of the farm has changed, it still provides a hands-on learning experience unique to Hillside. Students care for a variety of animals, including a very large pig named Babe, who is rumored to weigh over 1,000 pounds.

This past year, 107 students attended the private middle school, which serves both day and boarding students. Next year, 116 students are expected to enroll. Whereas some students can afford the private education, many rely on financial aid. According to Kristen Socha, who works in the development office, “DAR has been instrumental in ensuring that underprivileged students have the opportunity to attend Hillside.”

Scholarships are just one of the many ways DAR contributes to Hillside. Both a DAR U.S. History classroom and a DAR art room were recently renovated into cheerful learning environments, complete with new supplies. In September, the new DAR athletic field, which was the project of Honorary State Regent Carol Boulris, will be dedicated. The current State Regent Marce Karagosian is working on filling the library with much-needed books.

“The presence of DAR is felt all over campus. Students and alumni are very appreciative of all that DAR has done for Hillside,” notes Kristen Socha. Every May, Hillside celebrates DAR Day, a day to recognize DAR for its support. On DAR Day in this centennial year, Hillside will honor the 77 years of DAR devotion and encouragement. Without DAR support, Hillside would not be the success story that it is.

As Hillside prepares for the next 100 years, expansion plans are in the works, including a new student center, the DAR library upgrade and the DAR athletic field. Hillside looks forward to continuing to meet the challenges of ensuring that its students are educationally and emotionally equipped for the future. ♠

For more information on Hillside and how you can help, contact Kristen Socha at 508-303-5707.
In the current debate about raising the level of public education in this country, nothing starts the fur flying faster than the word “voucher.” During the past two decades, the people involved in the reform debate have come to acknowledge that serious measures are necessary to revitalize failing American schools and give lower income families equal access to the best education available. The notion of allowing parents more control over where and how their children learn has also gained popularity. But despite increasing consensus on the need for improvement and growing support for parental choice, people remain divided on the best strategies. Reform efforts include mandated testing of students and teachers, small-scale school choice programs, the creation of magnet and pilot schools and the development of independently run public charter schools. One proposal, a voucher system giving parents money to use for their children’s education, continues to be the most volatile and divisive proposal on the table. Currently tested with public money in Milwaukee and Cleveland and privately supported in New York City, Washington, DC, San Antonio and Dayton, vouchers are seen by their proponents as a way to liberate education from government bureaucracies, while the opposition views them as risky, flawed and perhaps unconstitutional. Last June, Congress rejected a voucher proposal inserted into the Bush administration’s federal education bill.
The following is a sampling of issues at the heart of the voucher debate.

**PRO:** Vouchers will improve schools by creating healthy competition using free-market principles.

**CON:** Vouchers will drain money and parental support from schools most in need of both.

Though they differ in their specifics, voucher programs essentially provide families with tax dollars to use at the schools of their choice. The belief is that, in a free educational marketplace, underperforming schools would lose students to better-quality institutions, raising the bar for all and creating incentives for schools to improve in order to compete and survive.

Opponents believe that education is a human service subject to social influences, not a commodity. They say that under a voucher system the most beleaguered schools would lose the most promising students, interested parents and funds formerly brought in by these families, leaving them less able to serve remaining students or initiate reform measures.

**PRO:** Parents should be free to choose which schools their children attend.

**CON:** Public money should be used for public, not individual, purposes.

The most fervent supporters of vouchers believe all families are entitled to them. Their primary goal is to give more control over education to parents and less to government.

Opponents assert that taxpayer dollars are meant to fund a public education system that is offered to all children. These funds should remain in the public domain.

**PRO:** Vouchers will allow underprivileged children to attend better schools.

**CON:** It takes social capital, not money alone, to help lower-income children achieve.

Most of those who support vouchers for all would calculate the amount by family income. Some would distribute them only to poor children who are trapped by circumstances in poorly performing schools. Either way, one of the goals of voucher programs is to equalize opportunity by eliminating the advantage now enjoyed by children whose families can afford to live in affluent suburbs that give more resources to their schools or to send their children to private schools.

Opponents say that, without parental knowledge and involvement, money will not make a difference. They believe that vouchers would not eliminate the problem of inequity because they would reward only those children whose parents could manage the time, energy, information and problem-solving strategies necessary to take advantage of multiple options. The most at-risk children would remain at high risk for failure and become more marginalized by being left behind.

**PRO:** Voucher systems should allow parents to choose any school, including religious schools.

**CON:** Allowing public money to be used at religious institutions breaches the separation of church and state mandated by the Constitution.

Though some voucher proponents would limit choice to nonsectarian schools, most advocate free choice. They point out that college students are issued federally funded Pell grants for use at any institution. As long as no one is forced into sectarian education, they believe using public money to allow such a choice falls within the spirit of the Constitution.

Opponents argue that the separation of church and state would be seriously undermined by the use of public funds for sectarian school tuitions. They believe that education supported by public funds should foster a cohesive society rather than one divided along religious lines.

**PRO:** Vouchers will help diversify our society by creating socioeconomic equity for all.

**CON:** Vouchers will segregate and further stratify the population.

Supporters believe that by helping lower-income students get a better education through choice and a competitive educational marketplace, vouchers would create a society in which everyone had equal access to success. They say school segregation exists under the current system because affluent families are choosing to move out of diverse urban areas to more homogeneous suburban communities.

Opponents argue that by dividing children among a variety of schools, which could be founded on narrow ideological principles, vouchers would segregate society
into blocs. They are also concerned that choice schools would not adhere to a requirement that they be open to all children, instead finding ways to exclude those who don't conform to their specific agendas.

**PRO: The current educational system is so entrenched in bureaucracy that reforming it is impossible.**

**CON: The current public educational system, though flawed, allows for accountability.**

Voucher proponents say they are fed up with halfway measures to improve schools. They say organizations tend to develop bureaucracies whose purpose becomes to sustain the bureaucracy rather than provide the best service. They blame teacher unions and school committees for refusing to accept changes dramatic enough to make a real difference. They also believe that national testing programs would serve to hold all schools accountable.

Opponents believe thousands of small schools all doing their own thing would be impossible to evaluate fairly. They worry that many such schools would fail for lack of proper hiring standards and weak educational underpinnings. They also feel that a voucher system would bring with it its own bureaucratic structure that would eventually become just as entrenched and rigid as the one it is replacing. They prefer to reform schools by creating alternatives, choice and accountability within public school systems.

The issues outlined above are by no means a comprehensive presentation of all the complexities involved in the different voucher systems being proposed or tried. And at this point, as the focus shifts from one area of the country to another and supporters and opponents battle for the upper hand, the voucher issue is very much a moving target. Adding to the complexity is the fact that three separate studies of an 11-year-old pilot program in Milwaukee have yielded conflicting results about whether or not voucher programs improve student performance. Voucher advocates argue that Milwaukee's program has been hamstrung by political compromises that have limited their scope and effectiveness. So while some educational specialists are calling for more study of current experiments, the most committed voucher proponents are urging an end to theoretical debate and a move toward provisional adoption. No one can assess the success or failure of vouchers, they say, until they have been given a fair trial on a widespread basis.

Two countries that have tried full-scale voucher programs are New Zealand, which launched a choice program in 1989, and Chile, which instituted a countrywide voucher program in 1980. Published studies by American scholars of both programs report mixed educational results from competition and include several cautionary remarks about social segregation and lack of true equality of opportunity. Both studies stress the differences between our societies and hesitate to transfer their judgments to experiments currently under way here. The studies do, however, serve to illustrate real examples of some of the pros and cons of voucher use.

In general, public knowledge about vouchers is still minimal. This is not surprising, since reading the analyses and arguments produces more questions than answers. With our country so divided on vouchers, would the compromises needed to achieve consensus undermine any chance for success? And perhaps the stickiest question of all is will courts uphold the use of public money for religious school tuitions?

Specialists predict that, 10 years from now, the educational landscape in the United States will be very different, with more choices, more accountability and likely more voucher experimentation in the picture. Meanwhile, they encourage parents and others interested in the future of education to become more informed about the options being considered.
Thirty-five years ago, when Tom Walker was in sixth grade, he went on a field trip to Washington, DC.

“I remember going to the Capitol building, the White House, visiting Mount Vernon, where George Washington lived. I’ll never forget the impression those visits made on me,” recalled Walker. “They helped me understand the human aspects of history.”

Walker counts his still-vivid memory of that trip among the building blocks of a big idea he has helped turn into reality: a participatory educational experience that allows people to feel how important and exciting it is to have a voice in public decisions.

The American Village, located in Montevallo, Alabama, is a civic education center that seeks to develop an interest in active citizenship through a reconnection to the ideals and passions that fueled our country’s original fight for freedom and self-government. Open to the public since November 1999, with Tom Walker as its founding executive director, this conclave of 12 Colonial-style buildings on 113 hilltop acres has already become a destination for teachers, students and adult visitors intrigued by the chance to relive American history’s defining moments. Led by costumed figures such as Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and Abigail Adams, visitors are given scripts that put them right in the middle of the action. After taking a role in the Stamp Act rally, the siege of Yorktown, the Virginia Convention, the Constitutional Convention and Washington’s presidency, they come to understand
VISITORS TO THE AMERICAN VILLAGE TAKE PART IN HISTORY'S TURNING POINTS

Keeping Alive the Spirit of Citizenship

that the country was created by real people struggling with tough decisions and doing the best they could in complex and confusing times.

“This is not a place to look and see, but to act and do,” said Walker. “We wanted to create a place where people could get away from the business of the world for a while and imagine a time and place where liberty animated an entire population.”

Building the Village

The village was built with a combination of private and public funds by the Citizenship Trust, an Alabama-chartered corporation headed by Walker, the driving force behind the center’s formation. Constructed on former pastureland, the recreated town and remarkably believable building replicas draw visitors immediately into the 18th century, quickly immersing them in the life of Colonial and post-Colonial America. The centerpiece structure, stately Washington Hall, was inspired by Mount Vernon. Inside, visitors gather in the Assembly Room, modeled on the chamber in Philadelphia’s Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were signed. The village also boasts an Old Meetinghouse, a 1770’s Colonial Courthouse and an Oval Office, where visitors can sit behind the desk and assume the duties of the President.

Walker, who graduated from the University of Montevallo in 1975, served as student government association president during his college
days. Disturbed by the ignorance, apathy and cynicism he observed about government and the people's role in it, he began pondering ways to make a difference. Before founding American Village, Walker served for several years as assistant to the president of the University of Montevallo, a position that helped him appreciate the role education could play in the development of citizenship. Finally, in 1993, he began speaking publicly about his idea for a civic education center in Alabama. "I had the contacts and the opportunity," said Walker. "I was able to enlist support not because I had such a great idea, but because there are many people who believe we have a challenge in this country to communicate who we are as Americans to future generations."

**The Educational Experience**

Though the premiere student program at American Village is wrapped up in the country's first fight for freedom, its educational message does not stop there. Following the promise of equality from the Revolution through the Civil Rights era, a program called "We the People" shows how the efforts of generations of freedom fighters made sure that phrase from
the Constitution's Preamble applied to all Americans. Another program, "Stand Up for the Right to Vote," invites students to participate in the fight for voting rights. Traveling from the North Bridge in Concord, Massachusetts, to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, this participatory exercise stops at Women's Suffrage sites along the way.

Because Walker believes strongly in the connection between rights and responsibilities, American Village also co-sponsors a mock election program in Alabama schools. According to Walker, it's not enough to learn that the right to vote was hard won. Students also need to learn that, because past citizens fought for that right, we have a serious responsibility to exercise it. "We all have an interest in freedom," he said. "If it weren't for the actions of ordinary people, things could have turned out differently. We'd like people to come away with a greater appreciation of our rights and responsibilities as American citizens."

Reenacting Rewards

Response from visitors indicates that American Village is, in fact, getting their attention. "I had studied the American Revolution for years," said one high school student on an evaluation form. "This is not a place to look and see, but to act and do—where people get away from the business of the world for a while and imagine a time and place where liberty animated an entire population."

"However, the American Village taught me more than just facts. I began to understand what the people were feeling and the struggles they had to overcome during this time. I can take more pride in knowing that I am an American citizen." Another student wrote, "During the whole day I was able to put myself in the place of a delegate from a colony, a soldier during the Revolutionary War, a citizen who wanted to vote. I even was able to go into the Oval Office. I came away from that day with a better understanding of our nation's past and how it affects me today."

Walker mentioned that he recently attended a luncheon at which a local businessman introduced him by relating an anecdote about his own son's experience at American Village. "He said his son hates to read, but that he came home from the Village and said, 'Dad, do we have any books on American history?'" recalled Walker.

Offering programs for all ages during both the academic year and summer months, American Village has already attracted students and adults from six states and expects an even wider participation as it prepares to enter its third year of operation in November. With the help of an active board of directors, the staff hopes to expand the center both virtually and physically. Walker is working on an
interactive website that will bring
the participatory activities of the
American Village to Internet
users around the country. In addi-
tion, he wants to host more teacher
workshops so that the center’s
philosophy and hands-on cur-
riculum can be used beyond its
borders. There are also plans to
construct another major
building modeled on the for-
ter Federal Hall in New
York, where Washington was
inaugurated and the Bill of
Rights was signed. The new
structure would contain
replicas of both chambers of
Congress and laboratories for
teaching civic journalism. As

Walker is working on an
interactive website to bring
the village’s participatory
activities to Internet users
around the country.

Tom Walker, founder of
the American Village.

time passes, he envisages other
states building citizenship centers
of their own based on the American
Village model.

But at the core, Walker recog-
nizes that his dream is not about
buildings but about re-igniting what
George Washington called “the
sacred fire of liberty.” Citing
a report from the National
Commission on Civic
Renewal, Walker said that
Americans today, instead of
grumbling about the time it
takes to vote or serve jury
duty, need to be reminded
that “the defense of liberty
requires more than the pur-
suit of happiness.”

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We the People...
Honoring the U.S. Constitution

OUR COUNTRY'S 214-YEAR-OLD FRAME IS STILL HOLDING US TOGETHER

BY LUCILLE DANIEL

The 39 exhausted men who signed the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, after a long, hot summer of contentious debate, would probably not have predicted that the document meant to unify four million people in 13 states would remain alive and well more than two centuries later. At the end of the Revolutionary War, John Adams had predicted that the new United States would someday become the greatest empire in the world. But even he could not have imagined that a constitution framed during the republic's infancy would continue to regulate a nation grown to 50 states and 270 million people. The document was certainly not perfect, nor was it supported by a majority of citizens at the time, but that original Constitution was built to last. With its provision for amendments, which would later guarantee the rights of all Americans, regardless of race, gender or creed, it has survived 42 transfers of executive power and a bitter Civil War to become the oldest written national constitution of any existing government. And, unlike the Declaration of Independence, which has suffered irreversible physical damage from over-enthusiastic handling, the four original parchment pages of the Constitution are in excellent shape, having been carefully protected during transport and times of strife and permanently enshrined in the National Archives building in 1952.
Despite the Constitution's vitality and its continuing relevance to our everyday lives, most Americans today display a remarkable lack of knowledge about its contents. A 1997 poll conducted by the National Constitution Center found that only five percent of Americans could correctly answer 10 basic questions about the document. More than half of those polled didn't know the number of U.S. senators in Congress. Only six percent could name the rights guaranteed in the First Amendment. One out of six believed that the Constitution established America as a Christian nation. And an astounding 84 percent believed the Constitution states that “all men are equal.”

The events that take place every year during Constitution Week, celebrated September 17-23, are meant to counteract this general lack of knowledge by educating Americans more fully about the principles that govern their country and by raising awareness about how the words “We the People” have become more inclusive in our continuing effort to form “a more perfect union.” Back in 1952, when the Truman administration declared September 17 “Citizenship Day,” the NSDAR began lobbying Congress for a commemoration that would more clearly celebrate the Constitution itself. In 1955, President General Gertrude S. Carraway conceived the idea for a Constitution Week, to begin each year on the day the document was signed. With the support of Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson and Minority Leader William Nolan, a bill proclaiming Constitution Week passed the Senate on Flag Day and was implemented on August 19, 1955, by President Eisenhower.

For her efforts to promote awareness of the Constitution, Miss Carraway—and the DAR—would later receive awards of appreciation from the Freedom Foundation at Valley Forge. Since then, the National Society has encouraged individual chapters to promote education about the Constitution in their local areas by distributing posters, sponsoring civic events and interacting with schools. Several other civic and patriotic organizations have climbed on board to support Constitution Week, and sample lesson plans have been developed and made available to teachers.

Bettie Tracy, NSDAR Chairman of Commemorative Events and Constitution Week, said one of the major goals of the annual tradition is to encourage people around the country to read all or part of the document each year in order to become more familiar with its actual contents. The contest that yielded the two posters now used to promote the week was a national initiative, but most efforts to raise awareness take place locally, in community-based events that bring neighbors together to celebrate the Charter of Freedom.

Constitution Week was created not only to promote the much-needed education about the Constitution and its history but also to help people learn their rights and responsibilities as citizens of today.
that the words wrestled over in the close quarters of the Philadelphia State House 214 years ago continue to shape our country’s life.

In September 2000, when page two of the Constitution, which had been exhibited only once in the previous decade, was unveiled in its new protective encasement at the National Archives, historian Dr. Michael Beschloss said, “The Framers of the Constitution were uniters, not dividers—and they were fighting for us. The Framers gave us a document durable and flexible enough to take us from the agrarian land of the 18th century—of the musket, the axe and the plow—to the country we know today—of the Internet and the human genome and a thousand different cultures living together in one nation like a glittering mosaic.” Dr. John W. Carlin, archivist of the United States, said at the time that similar encasements would be built for the three other parchment pages, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence, allowing all the Charters of Freedom to be safely displayed every day. He said bipartisan support for building the state-of-the-art encasements has come from an understanding of the importance of protecting these old parchments. “A society whose records are closed cannot be open,” said Carlin. “A people who cannot document their rights cannot exercise them. A nation without access to its history cannot analyze itself. And a government whose records are lost cannot accountably govern.”

Did you know...

★ The name of the second state that would ratify the Constitution is misspelled as “Pensylvania” above the signers’ names in the original document.

★ The oldest of the 39 signers of the Constitution was Benjamin Franklin, 81, who became known as “the sage of the Constitutional Convention.”

★ The youngest signer was Jonathan Dayton of New Jersey, 26.

★ George Washington, the unanimous choice to preside over the Constitutional Convention, and James Madison were the only future Presidents who signed the document.

★ James Madison, known as “the Father of the Constitution,” was the only delegate of the Constitutional Convention to attend every meeting. It was thanks to his copious note-taking that we have a reliable record of the proceedings.

★ John Adams (American minister to Great Britain), Thomas Jefferson (American minister to France) and John Jay (at the Foreign Office in New York) did not attend the Constitutional Convention.

★ It took fewer than 100 days to draft the Constitution.

★ The word “democracy” does not appear in the Constitution.

★ Though signed on September 17, 1787, the Constitution did not go into effect until February 4, 1788, when New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it, following Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland and South Carolina, in that order.

★ George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.

★ Rhode Island was the only state that refused to send delegates to the Constitutional Convention, and it was the last state to ratify, doing so only after George Washington was inaugurated.

★ The Bill of Rights was ratified December 15, 1791, fulfilling a promise given to several states that refused to ratify the Constitution without a guarantee that individual freedoms would be protected.

A family Bible record from the early 19th century
The pension record of a Revolutionary War ancestor
A typewritten family history from the 1920s
The inscription from an ancestor's tombstone transcribed before the elements wore it away
A published, exhaustive study of an American family through four centuries
The missing clue in a family history puzzle

All of these could be waiting for you ...

Inside the DAR Library

BY ERIC G. GRUNDSEDIT, LIBRARY DIRECTOR
For over a century, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has nurtured a library in its national headquarters in Washington, DC, and in the process created one of the country's premier genealogical research centers. The DAR officially established the DAR Library in February 1896, gathered a mixed collection of existing materials into one spot and began the process of giving the new department a defined purpose:

...the field covered by the collection is ... local history (state, county, town, and church), genealogies, biographies and vital records. Histories of all kinds relating to the American Revolution, including military and civil records, are desired, everything in fact that will assist in throwing light upon the men of the Revolutionary period, including their family lines as well as their service, and connect them with their descendants of the present day.

With this objective as its guide, the library has grown from a few hundred volumes to over 170,000 books, 300,000 files and 65,000 microforms. The study of American genealogy and local history is the primary purpose of the DAR Library. The preservation for the American public of published materials and manuscripts in these areas of study has been a focus of the DAR since its inception. Daughters, through their financial contributions, volunteer efforts and donation of books, have built a wonderful center for the study of American genealogy and family history.

The public itself has also had an important role in the library's growth. General researchers were first admitted to the library around 1900 and today represent about
two-thirds of the library's users. Paralleling the effort made by DAR members, the public has contributed thousands of family genealogies and other publications to the library. The library's high visibility in the nation's capital has attracted both researchers and their genealogical studies. As a result, the scope of the collection is such that it complements that of the Local History and Genealogy Division of the Library of Congress and contains a great many materials not available in that institution.

Hundreds of thousands of genealogical researchers during the 20th century have made use of the materials gathered in the DAR Library. Because the collection is national, with sources from all parts of the country and all periods in American history, genealogists often find Bible records, cemetery transcriptions and short family studies submitted by distant relatives decades ago. Among the better-known researchers who have utilized the DAR Library is Alex Haley, who stated on several occasions that the library had been of great help to him in his work leading to the publication of Roots.

During the course of its history, the DAR Library has had several homes. It began in the DAR's cramped quarters on F Street, NW in Washington's old business district. Following the completion of construction on the National Society's first building, Memorial Continental Hall, “the little white palace on 17th Street,” the library moved to the north gallery of that building in February 1910. The DAR's growth in the early 20th century led to the need for expanded space for all activities including the library, and in 1929, a new DAR Library space opened on the second floor of Constitution Hall.

Throughout the middle of the last century, the library's collection grew with the upswing in interest in genealogical research. The library was a popular resource for government works and was heavily used by soldiers who flooded into the capital city during World War II. By the end of the 1940s, new space was needed, so the library moved into the old auditorium of Memorial Continental Hall in 1949. This beautiful space remains its home today, where for over 50 years the collection has expanded to provide documentation of the diverse history of America's families. Today, materials are available on colonial to 20th-century immigrant groups, African American genealogy, American Indian history and genealogy, and American women's history.

The bicentennial of the independence of the United States in 1976, and the publication of the book and airing of the television series Roots in 1976 and 1977 engaged the public's imagination. Thousands were captivated by the idea of researching their family's part in the development of the country. In 1977, the DAR Library witnessed a doubling of attendance over the previous year, and use of the library has continued to rise. The number of genealogical publications exploded in the last quarter of the 20th century, and many of these volumes have found a home in the DAR Library. In the 1990s, the birth and expansion of the Internet further enhanced interest in genealogical research, but because this information isn't all on the Internet and so much misinformation is disseminated online, libraries such as the DAR Library remain vital parts of the quest for accurate genealogical information.

To reach a greater number of users, the DAR Library maintains a web presence that will expand. Researchers from near and far may access the library's catalog through the DAR's webpage at www.dar.org. In coming months, more search features and indexes will become available online that will give researchers greater awareness of the riches that the collections hold and will enable them to plan their research trips.

The DAR Library in the early 21st century is moving forward to provide enhanced access to materials and to stimulate the American public's interest in their families' past.

President General, Linda Tinker Watkins and Library Director, Eric Grundset at the DAR Library in Washington, DC.
Historic Haunted Homes

With Halloween just around the corner, haunted houses hold even more intrigue than usual. To help celebrate the season of ghosts and goblins, American Spirit put its sixth sense to work uncovering stories about supernatural happenings at three historic homes across the country.

From a DAR chapter house outside Annapolis, to an ante-bellum mansion near Baton Rouge, to a merchant’s brick home and storefront in “Old Town” San Diego, there are resident ghosts to meet and fascinating historic homes to explore. Simply put your “there’s no such thing as ghosts” skepticism aside for a while and read on. The stories will leave you spellbound.
The Myrtles Plantation
St. Francisville, Louisiana

The setting at the 10-acre Myrtles Plantation is so serene, it's hard to believe that this 20-room antebellum mansion was the site of several untimely, tragic deaths.

David Bradford, a prominent lawyer from Washington County in southwestern Pennsylvania, built the cottage-style white clapboard plantation home in 1796. Bradford fled to Louisiana, which was then Spanish territory, in 1794 to escape arrest for his role in the Whiskey Rebellion. President John Adams pardoned him in 1799.

Bradford lived at the Myrtles Plantation with his wife and children until his death in 1808. Eventually, his daughter Sara inherited the house, and tragedy began to shadow the home. Sara's husband, Judge Clark Woodruff, became disenchanted with Chloe, a house slave who was also his mistress. Apparently, Chloe eavesdropped on one of the judge's conversations at a time when eavesdropping was considered a highly punishable crime. Woodruff ordered one of Chloe's ears cut off and sent her back to the fields.

In hopes of returning to Woodruff's good graces, Chloe concocted a devious plan. She baked a cake for two of Woodruff's daughters whose birthdays fell around the same time. Into the cake batter, she added just enough poison (boiled oleander leaves) to make the children sick. Then, she hoped to be called to the house to nurse the children back to health and be revered as an indispensable "witch" doctor.

Her misguided plan went completely awry. Sara Woodruff and two of the couple's three daughters died. Slaves who had heard Chloe boast of her plan turned on her, and an angry mob hung her and threw her body into the Mississippi River. A grief-stricken Clark Woodruff moved to New Orleans with his surviving daughter.

To this day, visitors report sightings of two blond-haired ghost children playing, often outside in the rain in clothes that appear to be dry. Visitors also claim to see images of Chloe, a sad black woman wearing a green turban and one earring, roaming through the house. There are frequent reports of music emanating from the piano even though no one is actually playing.

Mysterious deaths and murders continued through most of the 19th century, when members of the Stirling family owned the home. In one particularly violent incident, an unknown man shot William Winter, the lawyer husband of Sarah Stirling Winter, in the chest as he came out the front door. Winter staggered back inside the house and died on the 17th step in his wife's arms. These days, the spirit of William Winter makes itself known by
thumping its way through the entrance area and up 17 steps.

Despite the sadness surrounding the house, proprietor Teeta Moss considers the ghosts to be guardian angels. “They don’t have an evil presence, and you get used to feeling that there are spirits hovering,” she says.

The history is what Teeta Moss finds most intriguing about the Myrtles Plantation, which she and her husband bought 10 years ago and now run as a bed and breakfast, restaurant and gift shop. “It’s really something that even in this age of computers and spaceships, it’s still possible to sit on the same gallery [front porch] or in the same parlor room where people as far back as 206 years ago sat, played, ate and worried about loved ones.”

The 124-foot-long porch is one of the home’s most distinctive elements. The porch features a lovely cast iron railing in an elaborate grape-cluster design. Equally impressive design features include open-pierced plaster freizework throughout the home’s interior. The house, which has been restored to its 1850s’ elegance, is beautifully appointed with gold-leafed French furnishings, twin Carrara marble mantels, Baccarat chandeliers, Aubusson tapestries, hand-painted stained glass and ornate mirrors.

The Myrtles, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is one of the few mansions in the area that wasn’t destroyed during the Civil War period. It was designated a Confederate hospital by Jefferson Davis, whose sister was married to a member of the Stirling family.

The Whaley House Museum

The grandest house in San Diego and the center of social and cultural life when the West was still young, the Whaley House cannot escape its haunting past.

This two-story brick, Greek revival building was built between 1856 and 1857 by Thomas Whaley. Thomas Whaley was the great grandson of Alexander Whaley, a patriot and gunsmith who supplied flintlock muskets to the Continental Army, participated in the Boston Tea Party, fought in the Battle of White Plains and allowed George Washington to use his Long Island home as a headquarters during the Revolution.

The Whaley House was actually built on land that was formerly a public gallows. Indeed, legend has it that Whaley himself was visited by the ghost of “Yankee Jim Robinson,” a man who was hanged here in 1852 for stealing a schooner. Today, many visitors report feeling tightness around the throat in certain areas of the house, especially the high archway between the parlor and the music room.

The adventurous and entrepreneurial Whaley originally moved out West in 1849 to seek his fortune in San Francisco, selling tools and mining implements to gold rushers. Within a year, Whaley achieved success, but after a fire destroyed his home and business, he moved to San Diego in 1851. In due time, he built a new home and started new ventures, which included a granary, a brickyard and a general store.

Whaley went back East in 1853 to marry his sweetheart, Anna Eloise DeLaunay, and bring her West. They weren’t living in their luxurious San Diego home long
when their second son, Thomas, died of scarlet fever. Reportedly, his cries can sometimes be heard in the upstairs room that was once his bedroom. In later years, a neighbor's young daughter may have died in the house after injuring her throat running into the Whaley's taut and low-hanging clothesline. Her spirit supposedly plays in the yard and haunts the kitchen by rattling and moving pots, pans and utensils.

Despite these tragedies and the fact that one of the Whaley's six children, Violet, committed suicide at the age of 22, the Whaley House hosted many festive parties, club meetings and social gatherings. "Whaley was a resourceful man," says Bruce Koonz, executive director of Save Our Heritage Organization, which currently operates the Whaley House. "He did what he had to do to make ends meet on the frontier. He built a fine house, ran businesses and was an active part of the community."

The Whaley House remained in the family until the youngest daughter died in 1953. Soon after, the home was designated a historic site and restored to its original late 1800s' style. Although the Whaley House Museum collection is currently in transition, it includes many original furnishings, including an empire sofa that was in Andrew Jackson's White House; Whaley's globe, desk and top hat; dresses from Anna Whaley's wardrobe; rocking chairs and original portraits.

The music room, where the family spent a lot of time, is frequently the spot in the house where visitors claim they pick up the smell of a cigar or the fragrance of perfume from days gone by. Thomas Whaley was known to smoke cigars, and Anna Whaley wore distinctive scents. Their friendly spirits have been spotted at one time or another in every room in the house.

The house has been the site of so many ghost sightings, manifestations and unexplained occurrences that it has been officially designated a haunted house by the U.S. Commerce Department. The Whaley House Museum is open Wednesday—Monday, 10:00 A.M.—4:30 P.M.

Rising Sun Inn
A DAR Chapter House, Millersville, Maryland

The charming Rising Sun Inn, a colonial tavern and residence that is now a chapter house for the Ann Arundel Chapter, NSDAR, has such an inviting appearance that it's no wonder it's home to a friendly, albeit cantankerous, ghost.

According to Ellan Thorson, state regent of Maryland and president of the Rising Sun Inn's board of trustees, the ghost of Randolph Williams, a descendent of the original owners, makes his presence known when odd jobs and renovation work aren't being done properly. Williams, a blacksmith who worked at Camp Parole during the Civil War, was apparently a handyman himself.

Williams started haunting the house about 10 years ago when the roof was under repair. "We thought we had hired a reputable contractor, but Williams was trying to warn us otherwise," says Thorson, who is also ex-regent of the Ann Arundel Chapter. Some of the strange occurrences that happened at the time include motion detectors and alarms going off in locked rooms, slide bolts throughout the house being mysteriously pushed into the locked position when tenants or trustees were outside and electrical devices being turned on suddenly in the middle of the night.

"One night, one of our tenants, the son of a member and a descendent of Randolph Williams, woke up to find all the lights on," Ellan relates. "He turned them off and went back to bed. A little later, everything was on again, and there's no master switch. That's when he saw a man seated in the corner of his room. I remember him telling me, 'I know who the man is because I've seen his picture in my grandmother's family album. It's Randolph Williams.'"

"Now when things start to rattle and bump, we look for a reason," says Ellan, "but other than locking us out, Randolph is a friendly spirit. He was just trying to make a point."
The Rising Sun Inn, which was donated to the Ann Arundel Chapter in 1916 for "patriotic uses," was built around 1753 by Edward Baldwin and expanded around 1790 by his son, Lieutenant Henry Baldwin. The younger Baldwin was a Revolutionary War hero who "likely fought in the Maryland Line at the Battle of Brooklyn," explains Ellan.

The young Baldwin married Sarah Hall Rawlings, the widow of a tavern keeper from Annapolis, around 1784. It was at this point that the home, which is situated on the historic General's Highway between Baltimore and Annapolis, actually became a tavern. The couple ran the tavern together and had a daughter before Sarah's early death in 1789. Henry remarried within a year or so, this time to Maria Graham Woodward. They continued to operate Baldwin's Tavern and had two children. However, the couple was married only three years when Henry died at the age of 40 in 1793.

His widow remarried and ran the tavern with her new husband, Augustine Gambrill, a local man from the county. At some point thereafter, the tavern became known as the Rising Sun Inn. It's unclear when the Rising Sun Inn ceased to be a tavern, but records show that by 1836, the building began a period of decline that lasted until 1916, when it was donated to the Ann Arundel Chapter of NSDAR.

Since then, the building has been carefully restored and maintained as a historic site. The Ann Arundel Chapter meets regularly in the "Tap Room," where travelers ate, drank and relaxed more than 200 years ago. The room features a "wonderful old fireplace and cabinets where the keg was kept under lock and key," says Ellan. Other antiques and noteworthy items in this room include an English tavern table with an antique chair (used by the chapter regent during meetings), a drop-front desk and a Bible table with an antique Bible. A beautiful needlepoint rug from the late 1700s adorns the floor.

The house is located in Millersville, Maryland, about nine miles north of Annapolis. It is open the second Sunday of each month from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Special tours can also be arranged. Contact Ellen Thorson at 410-268-9249 or ELLANWT@aol.com.
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A STERLING HISTORY:

American Silver

Silver, the third metal used by man after gold and copper, has served since antiquity as a medium of exchange and a symbol of wealth. It was no different for the earliest American colonists. Settlers brought their wealth with them in the form of “plate,” silver objects that were easily transportable and readily identifiable. Once in America, silver objects could be melted down and used as currency to buy necessities or recast into more contemporary forms. Because of silver’s value, those artisans able to work the metal were in demand. Two silversmiths arrived with the first wave of immigration to Virginia (although none of their work survived); in Boston, silversmiths were advertising by the 1630s.

Silver ore was not discovered in America until 1859; therefore most early American silver was made from coins, primarily Spanish, that were melted down and recast. Because of this common practice, the quality of American silver varied and
rarely met the English sterling standard for purity. American silversmiths marked their wares with their initials; as their numbers grew, later makers used full names and even street addresses. Few used dates, which were incorporated into the assay marks of British guilds. As in Britain, most early silversmiths learned the trade through an apprenticeship.

The process of making silver varied little from ancient times. Molten silver was poured into molds, allowed to cool and harden and hammered into sheets on an anvil. Deep shapes were cut out with large shears, then raised by hammering. Smaller parts like handles were cast separately and soldered to the body. Designs were engraved (scratched into the surface) or embossed (punched from the inside). A typical silversmith had a long list of hand tools, including as many as 100 hammers, along with anvils, shears and punches. Near the end of the 18th century, the production of rolled sheet silver eliminated the more tedious work of raising shapes.

A poor source of natural resources for the mother country, New England was able to develop its artisan class with fewer restrictions than the fertile South. As a result, Boston became the first center for colonial silver production, responding to wealthy citizens' desire for luxuries to ornament their homes and churches. Even the Puritans viewed possessions as tangible evidence of God's favor. By 1680, Boston had 24 silversmiths, who emulated London's baroque style of bold lines and raised ornamentation, although their detailing was more restrained because of the colonists' emphasis on practicality. The most common early forms were salvers, porringers, tankards and cans; silver vessels were recommended as the most healthful for drinking. Purely ornamental objects such as candlesticks were rare in the 17th century.

By the mid-18th century, Philadelphia surpassed Boston as the colonies' largest and richest city, known particularly for its Queen Anne and Chippendale furniture. Silversmiths followed those stylistic lines, creating objects with plain surfaces and graceful curves, later embellished with intricate, asymmetrical motifs found in nature. Philadelphia silversmiths also followed English models, tempered by the Quakers' emphasis on simplicity. The range of rococo silver objects expanded to include such specialized forms as chocolate pots, teapots, punch bowls and casters for sugar and other spices.

Trade restrictions and the loss of wealthy patrons (who were primarily Loyalists) during the Revolution hampered America's silver production until about 1790, when New York City superseded Philadelphia as the largest and...
busiest port. Handcrafted wares adopted the classical styles of Greece and Rome to reflect the purity, restraint and virtue of republicanism. Silver was cast in a variety of geometric forms—urns, drums, ovals, octagons—ornamented with swags, wreaths and pendant medallions. Because fashionably set tables for tea showed one's refinement, a fascinating and diverse assortment of forms evolved—tea canisters, teapots, cream pots, sugar boxes, slop bowls, spoons and strainers. In the second and third decades of the 19th century, archaeological discoveries in ancient cities like Pompeii inspired a fully developed classical, or empire, style—urn- or boat-shaped surfaces with heavily cast ornamentation.

As industrialization progressed and the middle class expanded, silver became more a product of the factory and less one of handcraftsmanship.

The Notable DAR Collection

The DAR Museum has a small but significant collection of American silver made between 1700 and the mid-1800s, according to curator Olive Graffam. Silversmiths from Boston, Philadelphia and New York are represented, as well as those in other cities along the East Coast. Among its approximately 2,500 objects are common early forms including porringer, tankards, cann, salvers, teapots, sauceboats, cream pots, sugar dishes, salts and 1,400 spoons. The earliest piece of American silver is a porringer with a simple pierced handle made by partners John Allen and John Edwards, who worked together in Boston from 1699 to 1707. Allen may well have apprenticed with his uncle Jeremiah Dummer, the first native goldsmith whose work survives.

The work of Boston silversmith Paul Revere (better known for his patriotism than his skill as an artisan) is also prominent in the DAR collection. An accomplished silversmith, trained by his Huguenot father, Revere was also an engraver and an astute businessman who owned a foundry and copper mills. One piece in the DAR collection is a silver beaker, which, though simple in form, is significant for what it says about design origins. It is one of a set of eight Revere made for wealthy Salem merchant Elias Hasket Derby in 1795, modeled after a set of four by French silversmith Denis Colombier, which Derby had purchased in Paris in 1789. The unusual engraved border on Revere's copy is nearly identical to, though less detailed than, that of the French original.

Above: Stylistic features of the rim and engraving as well as the object’s weight suggest this small salver was altered or copied from one made late in the career of Gerardus Boyce, who is listed intermittently in New York City business directories from 1820 to 1857. Gift of Helen Bush.

Left: A tea set dating back between 1825 and 1830, designed by John Ewan of Charleston, South Carolina. Ewan topped this three-piece set with cast dolphins and added the fish-scale design on the handles of the cream pot and sugar bowl to complete the naturalistic decoration. Friends of the Museum Purchase in honor of Mrs. Richard D. Shelby, President General, NSDAR, 1980-1983.
Right: Coral and Bells, circa 1836, designed by Francis Clark of Birmingham England. One of the oldest pieces in the DAR collection, this silver whistle and bells holds shaped coral and provides a charming teething implement and toy for a privileged child. Coral was thought to be a talisman against evil and disease in the uncertain world of early America.


There is also a federal-style teapot Revere made circa 1800 for Agnes McKean, daughter of a prominent Boston merchant. Its oval body, bands of beading and bright-cut decoration, and domed cover with acorn finial are similar to another Revere pot in the Yale University collection.

The Richardson family of Philadelphia made silver for three generations of customers, including George Washington for the executive mansion in Philadelphia. In the DAR collection is an urn-shaped covered sugar bowl designed by Joseph Richardson, Jr., circa 1791–1805. Another classical-style covered sugar bowl by Christian Wiltberger and a later, bolder example by John McMullin are among other Philadelphia pieces. The Dutch influence is evident in New York silver, such as a circa 1815–1834 teapot with matching creamer and sugar bowl by Thomas Richards with exaggerated proportions and gadrooning. An 1857 tea set by Gerardus Boyce shows a melding of earlier styles in its egg-and-dart ornament and rococo handle and spout.

Among the more unusual objects is a set of shoe buckles by New York silversmith Myer Myers, a punch strainer made by Zachariah Brigden of Boston (monteith punch bowls were particularly popular in New England) and items for the nursery—a pap bowl, bottle, nipple, and coral and bells, used for teething. A few English examples imported for American homes are also included. A dish cross, or sliding X, designed with a spirit lamp in the center to keep food warm at the table, was imported by Charles Carroll of Carrollton in 1798 and bears his family crest. It was made by London silversmith John Moore. Another London example is an elegant pierced rococo epergne for fresh fruits and dried sweetmeats that would have graced a fine table in a well-to-do 18th-century household. The DAR's example, descended in the Symington family of Maryland, was made by London silversmith Thomas Pitts, who specialized in epergnes and pierced baskets.

Most silver in the DAR collection was acquired as gifts from members or through purchases with the Friends of the Museum Fund. The museum continues to acquire forms not currently represented in the collection. Approximately 100 pieces are usually displayed in the museum's main gallery on the first floor. 🌸
Finding your own Revolutionary War ancestor can be one of the most exciting discoveries in genealogy research. This discovery offers a direct link to the creation of our republic and creates a renewed sense of patriotism and pride in the accomplishments of our country and our forebears. For women, this also opens the opportunity for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) was founded in 1890 by a group of dedicated women who wanted to honor their ancestors who aided in the establishment of the United States. More than 804,000 women have been able to confirm lineage to a Revolutionary patriot in the ensuing years.

The American Revolution lasted seven years, from the Battle of Lexington–Concord on April 19, 1775, to the removal of all British troops from New York on November 26, 1783. Depending on your age and if all of your ancestors lived in America in 1776, you have the possibility of 256 Revolutionary ancestors (male and female, though female service is difficult to prove) if you go back eight generations, 512 for nine generations and 1,024 for 10 generations. The geometric progression of your lineage provides many opportunities to find one or more Revolutionary patriots.
Membership in NSDAR is open to any woman over the age of 18 "who is lineally descended from a man or woman who, with unfailing loyalty to the cause of American Independence, served as a sailor or a soldier or civil officer in one of the several Colonies or States, or in the United Colonies or States, or as a recognized patriot, or rendered material aid thereto."

A patriot ancestor does not have to be a soldier, sailor or officer in the army, militia or navy, though this is one category for membership. NSDAR has three additional categories of membership: Civil Service, Patriot Service and the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Civil Service is reserved for those who provided leadership in cities, counties and states until November 26, 1783. Civil service ancestors must have lived in the same town where the service occurred, and residence must be proved. This category includes town officials and those who served on juries.

The category of Patriot Service is by far the largest. Those citizens who provided food, clothing and other supplies for the troops are included in this grouping. Some citizens signed oaths of allegiance or association tests. State governors and members of legislatures are included for patriotic service, not civil service. Some ministers gave patriotic sermons. Doctors, nurses and others who aided the wounded other than their immediate family are in this category. Some were defenders of forts on the frontier, prisoners on British prison ships, Spanish troops serving under General Bernardo de Galvez or in the Louisiana militia after December 24, 1776, when the Spanish king proclaimed his allegiance to the United States.

Resources at the DAR Library

More than 140,000 volumes of genealogical material and 300,000 documentation files have been accumulated at the DAR Library, providing a wealth of research material.

An excellent guide is American Genealogical Research at the DAR, Washington, D.C., written by Eric G. Grundset and Steven B. Rhodes and published in 1997. Though written by the director and assistant director of the DAR Library, the guide gives research information for all departments of the organization.

Documentations files for patriots include records submitted by DAR members after their membership is approved. However, there may not be a file for each verified patriot. During the early years, documentation was not necessary; prospective members just submitted applications and approval was given. In fact, DAR's first President General, Caroline Harrison, wife of President Benjamin Harrison, submitted her application a mere three hours before the organizing meeting, and the application was approved before the meeting. During one period, DAR returned documentation to the applicants after reviewing it. Vital records that were less than 75 years old at the time of application verification will not be found in the files.

Seimes Microfilm Center contains over 60,000 microfilm and microfiche items. Included are all DAR membership applications; federal census records to 1900; the Draper collection; Spanish land grants in Florida; vital records for Massachusetts; indices to vital records in New Hampshire, Vermont, Missouri and Illinois; passenger lists and naturalization petitions.
Of special interest for those trying to locate proof of service for an ancestor is the Seimes’ collection of the Compiled Service Records of American Naval Personnel (NARA RG-93, M800), Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army (NARA RG-93, M881) and the General Index to Compiled Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers (NARA RG-93, M860). Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800–1900 (M804) is another valuable set of film.

A new source entitled Catalog of the Seimes Microfilm Collection has just been compiled by Steven B. Rhodes, assistant director of the DAR Library.

Proof of Service

Genealogical researchers are overjoyed if they find published family genealogies, especially if documented. Sadly, most genealogies lack documentation and offer only dues for researchers to follow.

Finding specific proof for the service of a Revolutionary patriot is extremely important. It is also necessary to find proof of the ancestor’s residence during the war to ensure a match between specific service and a particular ancestor. The three-volume set of the DAR Patriot Index, a reference found in most libraries, is a good starting point. The listing of an ancestor in these volumes is a good indication that service has already been established. However, since these volumes are now 10 years old, additional information has come to light on some of the patriots, resulting in their patriotic status being revoked until more complete documentation is presented to DAR. Additionally, new ancestors who are not included in these volumes have been added to DAR records. DAR members can now access newer records at a members website.

Finding your ancestor in the DAR Patriot Index still does not constitute proof of service. More help is available in Is That Service Right?, a compilation of some of the best sources for proof of service. This booklet is published by the Office of the Registrar General and is regularly updated.

For those with Pennsylvania heritage, the Pennsylvania Archives Fifth Series contains most military records. Salley’s Stub Indents lists the audited accounts for South Carolina patriots—those who had military service and those who provided goods and services. North Carolina militia certificates often give clues to residence during the Revolution. The three-volume set Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims, compiled by Janice L. Abercrombie and Richard Slatten, is the primary source for nonmilitary claims in Virginia.

New Hampshire service can be found in Miscellaneous Revolutionary Documents of New Hampshire, which includes those who signed association tests or oaths of allegiance. Sometimes these volumes can show who was not a patriot.

The role of General Galvez and the Louisiana patriots is described in a single booklet, Louisiana Patriots 1776–1783, compiled by Elisabeth Schmidt, NSDAR’s former Louisiana specialist. Unlike service for most patriots, service for Louisiana patriots begins after December 24, 1776.

Minority Service

To encourage minority membership in NSDAR, a series of booklets relating to minority Revolutionary War service from 1776–1783 was compiled on behalf of DAR under the supervision of Elisabeth Schmidt and Hazel Kreinheder, the Society’s minority specialists. They oversaw extensive research to find not only documentation to prove service, but also the actual names of minority patriots for each of the original 13 colonies plus Maine and Vermont. Each booklet includes a background history, a bibliography and lists of African American and American Indian patriots whose support for the cause of American independence has been proved.

In spring 2001, the individual booklets were revised and combined into one volume entitled African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War.

Finding one ancestor is never enough. Soon, you are on the quest again to find another and another, as it becomes an addictive pastime. Revolutionary ancestors who were not previously proven, continue to be found each day. Have you found yours?

All publications referenced are available from the The DAR Store, NSDAR, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006-5303. For further information, including pricing, please call 202-879-3218.
New Ancestors

New ancestors who have been recognized by the NSDAR as of February 3, 2001 and of April, 2001 are listed below.

Continued from the July/August issue of American Spirit.

MASON:
Philip: b c 1763 — d a 1848 PA m (t) Magdalena X Sol PA

MAYNARD: MINARD
John: b 1754 CT d 5-28-1833 NY m (t) Anna Griffin (2) Silence Sears Comstock Pvt CT PNSR

MCKAMY: MCKEMY
Samuel: b 1759 VA d 8-23-1834 TN m (t) Sarah Dixon Pvt VA PNSR WPNS

MCWHORTER: MCWHIRTER
James: b c 1760 MA d a 2-21-1843 SC m (t) Whiny Hames (a) Terry X Sgt SC PNSR WPNS

PARKER:
Isaac: b c 7-23-1749 MA d a 3-7-1804 VT m (t) Sarah Case (2) Jemima Devotion PS MA

PIKE:
Leonard: b 9-18-1730 MA d 7-1804 VT m (t) Sarah Case (2) Susannah Sprague Pvt MA

ROBERTS: ROBBARTS
Ishmael: b c 1750 — d a 12-26-1826 NC m (t) Silvey X Pvt NC

ROBERTSON: ROBERSON
John: b c 1729 VA d a 6-30-1803 NC m (t) Amy Temple NC

RUSSELL: ROUSSELLE, RUSSEL
William: b 8-22-1737 MA d 12-5-1828 VT m (t) Katherine Bent Pvt MA

SAVORY: SAVARY, SAVERY
Daniel: b c 1764 MA d 9-21-1836 MA m (t) Huldah Soule NS MA

SEIFERT: SAFRIT, SIFRID, SIFRITT, SYFRED
Charles: b c 1732 — d a 10-17-1804 NC m (t) Margaretha X ILT PS PA

SINGLETON:
John: b c 1764 VA d 6-11-1824 SC m (t) Elizabeth Wilder Pvt SC WPNS

SORBIER:
Jean Francois: b 11-18-1744 FR d 6-13-1826 FR m (t) Marie-Anne Lechanteur De Pougnaudessere PS FR

STANLEY: STANDLEY, STANDLY, STANLEY
Moses: b c 1745 — d a 12-10-1812 NC m (t) X X PS NC

TAYLOR:
Adonijah Otis: b c 1760 MA d a 4-22-1797 MA m (t) Zeviah Snow Pvt MA

THOMPSON: THAMASON, THOMASSON, TOMSON
Thomas: b c 1740 PA d a 7-13-1819 TN m (t) Margaret Loque CS PS NC

TIPTON:
Edward: b 10-27-1728 MD d a 2-18-1805 PA m (t) Jemima X PS MA

TITTLE: TICTHLE
John: b c 1735 MD d a 10-26-1791 MD m (t) Elizabeth X Sol MD

TORIAN:
Peter: bpt 9-17-1727 SW d a 5-25-1812 VA m (t) X X PS VA

TRAVIS: TRAVERS, TRAVISS
Thomas: b c 1737 — d a 6-5-1837 TN m (t) Hannah Hutchins PS MD

TYSON: TISEN, TISON
Benjamin: b c 1753 — d a 7-13-1797 NC m (t) Ann X Sol NC

VERDIN: VERDEN
James: b 8-25-1756 — d 6-19-1843 IL m (t) Sarah X Pvt SC PNSR WPNS HPNS

WEIDNER: WIDENER
John: b c 1735 — d a 12-10-1788 PA m (t) Elizabeth X PS PA

WHARTON:
Charles: b c 11-11-1743 PA d 3-5-1838 PA m (t) Jerimia Edwards (2) Elizabeth Richardson (t) Hannah Redwood PS PA

WINN: WINNE, WINNER, WYNNE, WYNN, WYNNS
Sloman: b c 1735 — d a 10-30-1780 VA m (t) Mary X PS VA

AS OF APRIL, 2001

ALDRICH: ALDRIDGE
John: b c 1725 — d a 6-11-1799 MD m (t) Dolly X PS MD

ARMSTRONG:
Samuel: b c 1744 IR d a 9-11-1809 SC m (t) XX Sol SC

AYER: ACRES, AVARS, AYERS, AYRES, EYRE, OYER
Thomas: b c 1734 — d a 5-26-1788 VA m (t) Mildred/Milly X PS VA

BABSON: BAPSON
Abraham: b 8-20-1761 MA d a 1830 ME m (t) Ruth Lufkin Pvt MA

BAKER: BACKER, BOECKER
Timothy Jr.: b c 1745 MA d a 1822 MA m (t) Cynthia Onion Pvt MA

BARNETT: BARNET
William: b c 1761 NC d a 11-11-1831 MA m (t) Cynthia Onion Pvt MA

BARRICK: BARRACK, BERG
Samuel: b c 1776 MA d a 11-11-1831 MA m (t) Cynthia Onion Pvt MA

BARTON:
William: b c 1761 NC d a 11-11-1831 MA m (t) Cynthia Onion Pvt MA

BIDWELL:
John: b c 1737 — d a 9-11-1794 PA m (t) X X PS PA

BLAKENSHIP: BLANKINSHIP
Daniel: b 2-5-1761 — d 6-29-1849 AL m (t) XX Pvt VT PA HPNS

BOUGHTON: BANTON, BAUTHON, BOUTON, BOUTUN
Abram: b 11-23-1760 CT d 3-2-1827 NY m (t) Abigail X (a) Ruth X Pvt CT

BROOKS: BROOKES
Paul: b c 1762 PA d a 9-1794 KY m (t) Hester Burns Sol PA

BROUGHTON: BRAUGHTON
Joseph: b c 1765 — d a 1814 NC m (t) Mary/Polly Stansill Pvt NC WPNS

BROWN: BROWN, BROWNE
Joseph: b c 1733 NY d a 12-7-1793 NY m (t) Mehetable X Sol NY

CHILDRESS: CHILDER
Jacob: b c 1762 VA d a 3-4-1844 SC m (t) Jamey X Pvt SC

CLEMSON: CLIMSON
John: b c 1792 — d a 7-1794 PA m (t) X X PS PA

COLLINS: COLLINGS
Jeffrey: b 2-14-1756 VA d 10-24-1835 VA m (t) Jemima Arterburn Pvt VA PNSR

CONNELLY: CONERLY, CONLEY, CONNALLY, CONNELLEY, CORNOLLY
William: b 12-2-1745 MA d 10-24-1826 MA m (t) Margaret X Sol MA

COPE: COPE
Samuel Sr.: b 1726 PA d 9-15-1877 PA m (t) Deborah Parke Pvt PA

CURTIS: CURTICE, CURTISS
Ranson: b 10-23-1745 CT d 1839 CT m (t) Alice Whitten Sol CT

DAVIS: DAVES, DAVIES
Isaac: b 9-11-1726 MA d 11-28-1776 NH m (t) Lucy Osborn (a) Elizabeth Powers Capt NS NH

DIMICK: DIMICK, DIMMICK, DIMOCK
Theophilus: bpt 8-11-1765 MA d p 1820 NY m (t) Nabey X Pvt MA
In the November/December issue of American Spirit

Christmas at Williamsburg: A holiday tour of Williamsburg, VA.
Rod Paige Reaches Out: DAR speaks with the United States Secretary of Education.
Gourmet Traditions: Passing down traditions through food.
The Career Change: How to re-invent your career.
Ensuring that an elderly parent is cared for can be overwhelming. Consulting medical experts and involving family members in a plan that works for all parties can help ease the stressful situation.

BY MARGIE MARKARIAN

a year ago, the last thing Kathy Bakalars, 36, a devoted wife, busy mother of four children (all C.A.R. members) and successful preschool director/teacher, needed was another caregiving responsibility. Nonetheless, when her 69-year-old mother suffered a series of mini strokes that left her weak and confused, Kathy was right there providing comfort, attending doctors appointments, keeping siblings informed and figuring out ways to manage and care for her ailing and aging mother.

Despite her outward resilience, Kathy, like many adult daughters who become caregivers to aging parents, was scared and overwhelmed. "On the way home from one of the doctor's appointments, my mother, Carolyn, asked me, 'If I can't take care of myself, are you going to take care of me?'" recalls Kathy. "All the while I'm comforting her, saying 'Sure, Mom, I'll always take care of you' but inside I'm imploding—I have four children, a school and a husband."

Fortunately, Kathy, a descendent of Captain Joshua Nason, a patriot who transported Revolutionary War supplies and fought at the Battle of Saratoga, received some excellent advice from her mother's doctor. "He told us to have a family meeting, that all the siblings should come together and make a plan," she says. "He said no one should tell another person what they should or shouldn't be doing to help out—people should volunteer."

Kathy quickly called a meeting. Six of eight brothers and sisters attended. Out of the meeting came an interim plan that called for one person to physically check in with their mother in the morning and another person to visit in the evening and bring dinner. The plan was in effect only a short time when Carolyn took a bad fall that required hospitalization and rehabilitation. A social worker ultimately helped Kathy and her siblings take the next step.

"She told us to apply for permanent status at a nursing home," says Kathy. "It was obvious none of us could care for our mother at home—that she needed ongoing medical attention, and we all had young families, most with children under five."

Carolyn was soon admitted to a staffed nursing facility three miles from Kathy's house. Kathy's caregiving continued in the form of daily phone chats, all-day visits on Thursdays and overnight visits on Saturdays. As Kathy's needs changed, so did the responsibilities among her siblings. Currently, there are two people who check in with Carolyn every day and two who see her every other day.
stays during the holidays. Kathy also oversees her mother's paperwork and medical care. Her siblings pitch in with regular visits and phone calls.

In a year's time, Carolyn has come a long way. "She has her strength and sense of humor back," says Kathy. "The strokes inhibited her cognitive skills and problem-solving abilities, but she's reading again and is doing well enough to be on a waiting list for an assisted living facility. She's even told me, 'I realize how much you do and I really appreciate it.'"

Despite many moments of stress, Kathy handled her aging mother's situation the way geriatric experts recommend—she identified the problems, assessed the situation with medical experts, came up with solutions, involved family members and respected her mother's feelings and wishes.

Following are some pointers that will help you do the same:

Be aware of the subtle signs.

Whereas a stroke, heart attack or debilitating illness is an obvious sign that an aging parent needs help, other signs may be less noticeable. "Any time there starts to be a deviation from a regular pattern, it's a warning signal," says Carol McIntyre, a social worker and geriatric care specialist who owns Caring Connection in St. Charles, Illinois. These deviations could include wearing the same clothes all the time, an unkempt appearance and a lack of interest in food, social activities or hobbies.

Discuss concerns with empathy and sensitivity.

"Frequently, aging parents know something is happening and are frightened, but they don't want to burden their children," says Barbara Nodiff, president, Associated Geriatric Information Network, a long-term care consulting firm in New Rochelle, New York. "It's important to start asking questions, but in a nonthreatening way. Get a dialogue going, so you can find out what is happening and intercede appropriately."

That's precisely what Kathy Bakalars did when she began noticing that her mother had become less social, was sleeping on the couch and was eating very little. As Kathy recalls, "I kept asking,

WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION AND SUPPORT ON ELDER CARE ISSUES

- Caregivers.com (AgeNet), www.caregivers.com
- Eldercare Locator, 1-800-677-1116
- Eldercare Online, www.ec-online.net
- Family Caregiver Alliance, 415-434-3388, www.caregiving.org
- National Adult Day Care Services Association, www.ncoa.org
- National Association for Home Care, 202-547-7424, www.nahc.org
- National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers, 520-881-8008, www.caremanager.org

Choosing the right setting for your parent can make all the difference in her health, happiness and everyday life.
INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE

Consider enlisting the help of one of the many professional services focused on providing elders with support. Here are a few:

- Homemaker services such as food shopping, meal preparation, transportation, housecleaning, laundry, home maintenance, lawn care, bill paying and errand running.
- Personal care services like bathing, dressing, feeding, shaving and grooming.
- Home health care services such as skilled nursing care, medication management, physical therapy, nutrition counseling, etc.
- Quality of life services including companions, escorts, daily phone calls and check ins, counseling and exercise.

'Are you okay, Mom? Is something wrong? Do you want to talk about it?' Finally, she told me she wasn’t feeling well, that she felt something had happened to her, she felt incapacitated."

Get professional input.

Don’t try to diagnose your parent’s health and aging-related problems on your own. Schedule appointments to see the necessary doctors and consider hiring a geriatric care manager to help assess the situation. Doing so will help you identify the real problems and come up with appropriate solutions.

Modify the home environment to fit your parent’s present and future needs.

Often the key to preserving a parent’s independence in his or her own home involves modifying the environment. A good place to start is the bathroom, by adding grab bars in the tub and shower and by the toilet, putting a bench in the shower and installing a higher toilet seat. Other simple modifications that increase at-home safety and convenience include eliminating scatter rugs, securing electrical cords, rearranging the kitchen so that often-used items are within easy reach and using brighter light bulbs and nightlights.

Enlist the aid of family and friends.

Once you have identified the problems, it’s a good idea to have a family meeting to discuss a course of action. “Be open and honest with siblings,” says Nodiff. “Let them know you have limitations, that it may be necessary to take turns. Ask who wants to handle finances, arrange physician appointments, help out with the house, do food shopping. Allow siblings to select functions to deal with, but be realistic about what someone who lives five miles away or further can really do.”

If you don’t have a large circle of siblings, see if extended family members, neighbors and family friends can help.

It’s important to involve others from the start so that everyone has a sense of control regarding his or her responsibilities and feels like a part of the process. Early involvement also minimizes resentment and helps prevent caregiver burnout.

Seek community resources.

Research the local telephone pages to learn what types of programs and services various government agencies, charitable organizations, senior citizen centers, churches, synagogues and community groups have to offer.

Involve your aging parent to the maximum degree possible.

Geriatric experts warn caregivers against having an overly take-charge attitude or treating aging parents like children. “One of the mistakes well-meaning children make is not realizing how complex aging issues are and comparing geriatric care to child care,” explains Karen Knutson, president OpenCare, a geriatric management firm in Charlotte, NC. “Elder care is not like child care. You’re talking about someone who has been independent and is losing some of that independence. You have to support their preferences and wishes on how they want care to be given, how they want to live.” Exceptions, of course, may come into play when critical issues regarding a parent’s safety and mental competence are involved.

Hire paid help as needed.

Although a lot depends on financial resources, don’t discount the merits of paying for services that free you and other family members from doing it all. A host of companies provide a full-range of services to the elderly.

Look into adult day care programs.

Adult day care programs offer a safe place for aging parents to stay while primary caregivers work, run errands, attend to personal business or go on vacation. These programs follow either a medical
model or social model. Medical models have the full complement of medical professionals available, as well as social and recreational activities. Social day care programs focus on social interaction, recreational activities and group meals and offer limited medical supervision. 

Find out what benefits and services your parent is entitled to.

Rules and regulations regarding Medicare and Medicaid, as well as the terms and conditions of health and long-term care insurance policies, can be complex. However, it's important to become very familiar with the fine print so that your aging parent is not short-changed on any benefits and services available to him or her. You can review Medicare and Medicaid guidelines at the Health Care Financing Administration website, www.hcfa.gov.

Create check in systems.

If you're concerned about a parent who lives alone, look into an emergency response system. With the touch of a button on a necklace or bracelet, your parent can alert a 24-hour response center to an emergency situation. There are also services that require aging parents to check in daily by phone. If no contact is made, someone will check in on your parent. Some communities have a postal alert service, whereby a mail carrier will notify a supervisor if he or she notices an unusual accumulation of mail.

Designate a health care proxy.

Make sure your aging parent has a health care proxy or agent. The proxy is someone who can make medical decisions on your parent's behalf, discuss conditions and treatments with doctors, interpret medical instructions and respond to changing medical needs. Proxies are extremely important if your parent is beginning to suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's or some other debilitating illness that impairs comprehension of his or her own medical situation.

Consider the full spectrum of living arrangements.

When an aging parent needs ongoing help, adult children sometimes jump to the conclusion that mom or dad should move in with them or closer to them. However, most geriatric experts agree that maintaining an elder's independence in familiar surroundings is usually preferable. That's why you really need to assess other possibilities as well, including shared housing, senior apartments, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, live-in help and skilled nursing facilities.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Your strength and well-being is essential when caring for an elderly family member. To prevent caregiver burnout, be sure to get enough sleep, eat a healthy diet, exercise, socialize and seek support from family and friends—or a local support group. Caring for an elderly family member can be both a difficult and rewarding undertaking. Use as many resources as you can to assist you in your responsibilities.

Kathy and her children, who are all C.A.R. members, enjoy frequent, uplifting visits with Kathy's mom, Carolyn.
Going, Going, Gone!

On the Internet, auctions and appraisals find a new and expanded market. By Gretchen Poehlman

Live auctions can be exciting—but if the fast-paced chatter of the auctioneer and the shouting of bidders leave you reeling, you might want to visit another kind of public sale: an online auction. Experts in the auction and appraisal business have recently entered a new and expanded market on the Internet by creating websites that take the mystery and intimidation out of auctions, without losing any of their excitement.

Whether you are searching for a coveted collectible, interested in the value of your own pieces or wondering how much of a bargain you found, the recent emergence of appraisal and auction sites will be of interest to you. The following offers tips to help you enjoy bidding, appraising and selling online.

**Online Appraisals**

Experts tend to be wary of Internet appraisal services. However, there are reputable dealers online—just be sure to read the policies of those you use. It is also wise to have your pieces appraised by several vendors so that you can compare valuations. Online appraisers will request that you send a series of photographs and a written history of your piece, including information such as the condition of the piece, where or how you acquired it and how it has been used or stored.

A visit to Maloney’s Antiques and Collectibles Resource Guide at [www.maloneysonline.com](http://www.maloneysonline.com) is a good way to start. Maloney’s Online offers hard to find information about all kinds of collectibles. This guide is a vast research tool that enables you not only to learn about your possessions but also to search for the nearest or most appropriate appraiser.

If you would like to try an online appraisal, Butterfields, one of the most reputable names in auctions, offers an excellent photo appraisal service. Visit Butterfields online at [www.butterfields.com](http://www.butterfields.com) and click on the “Services” link at the bottom of the page to see what they provide. The Butterfields site also lists a calendar of their upcoming auctions scheduled throughout the country.

Another online appraisal service worth visiting is Collectics, a Connecticut-based online auction service that provides an appraisal for $30. The site is called the Virtual Consignment Shop and can be found at [www.collectics.com/valuations.html](http://www.collectics.com/valuations.html). This site offers a collection of resource guides that has been carefully compiled by the Collectics’ experts.

**Online Auctions**

As in the case of online appraisal services, it is important to find a reputable auction service online so that you can be sure what you have bid on is actually what you are getting. The downside of bidding online is that you are unable to inspect the item before you bid. However, most online auctions provide a detailed
description of each item, and some even allow you to inspect your purchase before accepting it. Many of the most famous and reputable auction houses in the world now have auctions online. If you use one of these sources, you can be sure that the items offered are authentic.

Whether you are interested in buying or selling online, first visit www.workz.com/content/445.asp, which has several links to helpful informative articles. From terminology to virtual wisdom, this site offers tips to help guarantee a winning bid.

For the connoisseur of select antiques, quality collectibles or fine art, visit Sotheby's online. Register at www.sothebys.com to receive customized information about online auctions that feature items of particular interest to you. Auctions run in real time on the Sotheby's site, so you can see how much time is remaining, what the auction house has estimated the sale price to be and where the current bid stands. To bid on an item, just click on the “bid” button and enter your password and bid amount. One of the distinguishing features of this site is the Automatic Bidding Agent that competes with other bidders for you once you have set a ceiling price. It ensures that you do not bid above the price you have set and always attempts to get the items you desire for the lowest price possible.

Some online auctions offer categories, such as African art, Victorian furniture and vintage dolls. If you fancy contemporary art, register at www.biddingtons.com. When you register, you will be given an identification number that allows you to place bids. Biddingtons has a comforting guarantee that allows you to inspect the item you have purchased at auction before accepting it. If it does not meet your approval, you may request a refund and return the item. Another encouraging feature of this site is the capability to ask questions of the seller by e-mail prior to making a bid. Buyers on the Biddingtons site do not pay a commission; however, they are responsible for paying the shipping and insurance costs associated with their purchase.

The thrill of bargain hunting is best found on the multitude of community sites—e.g., About.com’s auction channel, www.auction-home.net. However, with the thrill comes the risk of not dealing directly with an accountable auctioneer. These frequently visited portals put you in touch with an international marketplace. No doubt you will find something you are looking for, but it might not be wise to purchase big-ticket items such as art or jewels this way.

eBay, www.ebay.com, the most well-known online auction site, allows you to view items by category and review the sellers’ descriptions. If you find something that interests you, you may e-mail the seller with questions. For convenience, this secure site allows you to make purchases with a credit card.

Remember the importance of reading the fine print. As with any online purchase, if you are planning to pay with a credit card, be sure that the site is secure. Never send money without understanding the “house policy” or before reading the instructions for returning an item and for making a claim in case you never receive an item you purchased.

The best part of having auctions at your fingertips is the variety of objects you will find—from an antique jade elephant broach to Princess Grace of Monoco’s heirloom linen cocktail napkins. You can enjoy the intrigue of the live auction in the comfort of your home, 24 hours a day.
Find the perfect gift for friends, family—or even yourself—at the DAR Museum Shop. The Shop is filled with hundreds of items that are reproductions of, or inspired by, pieces on display at the DAR Museum. The DAR Museum was established in 1890, the same year NSDAR was founded. Its 33,000 decorative and fine arts objects comprise items made or used in America before the Industrial Revolution. Objects displayed in 33 period rooms trace the development of home and social life in early America. It is Washington's only American decorative arts museum and it's FREE!

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In this new page-turner, David McCullough takes an underappreciated former President and reinfuses him with complexity and color. As much a chronicle of extraordinary times and an extraordinary marriage as it is of one man's extraordinary life, *John Adams* carries us into the chamber of the Continental Congress, onto the dangerous roadways of Revolutionary America, across the North Atlantic, into the republic's first headquarters, to the brand new President's House on the Potomac and finally into retirement in Quincy, MA. Because John was so often separated from his wife, Abigail, McCullough is able to trace their unguarded thoughts on politics, world events, people, family, business and one another by heavily excerpting their frequent letters. The lifelong love affair and partnership between these two strong-willed, family-centered people serve as a richly textured counterpoint to the remarkable but sometimes disillusioning public lives they led.

McCullough portrays the second President as a great thinker and shaper of his time without losing sight of his everyman qualities. When, at 88, he saw his son John Quincy elected the sixth President, he qualified his obvious pride with the remark: "No man who ever held the office of President would congratulate a friend on obtaining it."

A few days before his death in 1826, at 90, Adams was asked to offer words for a toast that could be used to celebrate the Fourth of July in Quincy. Known for his verbosity, Adams managed in the end to sum up his remarkable life in two words, "Independence forever!" he rasped.

The title of Leslie Hindman's book is the first sign that she is in touch with her audience. Knowing that, for many people, buying at auction can be intimidating, Hindman sets out to allay the fears that keep people away from the fast-talking auction world. She succeeds in making auction-going an adventure through a combination of practical advice and infectious enthusiasm, turning herself into a kind of personal trainer for shoppers and sellers intent on taking up a new sport.

Hindman is intent on showing that auctions are for everyone. Host of HGTV's *At the Auction* and *Appraisal Fair*, Hindman has more than 30 years of experience in the auction business.
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