



HISTORY OF THE CONTINENTAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF INDIAN WARS, INC

The Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars was created to preserve records and historic sites of both Native Americans and Immigrant Ancestors and to encourage the memory of those who waged war in defense of their people's freedom and ideals. Mrs. Lawrence Avery of LaGrange, Georgia was encouraged by Dr. James Edwards, who helped to form the Continental Society Sons of the Indian Wars to serve to begin founding the Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars. After preliminary plans were made, she attended the lineage society meetings in Washington, DC in April of 1988 where she and her husband met with Wayne and Doris Gilbert from Wagoner, Oklahoma and discussed the formation of such a woman's society. Virginia Avery returned to Georgia and began a letter and telephone campaign to find prospective members.

Georgia State Society was organized 26 April 1988, with charter dated 26 June 1988. Doris Gilbert organized Oklahoma State Society in Tulsa on 6 May 1989. Missouri State Society was organized by Nancy Ragsdale on 23 September 1989. Almost immediately the **Calumet** was published and became the official news and information source for the Society.

Organizing Governors were named for Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Indiana, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Texas. **Virginia Avery became the first Governor General** and the 1989 Directory was published listing the 1988 – 1990 Officers General and one hundred fifty (150) members. The first ninety-one (91) members were designated Founding Members and the following forty-three (43) members as Charter Members.

Barbara Chastain of Georgia State Society designed the flag of the society, and it was adopted in 1991. Patricia Hopkins composed the Salute to that flag. Brochures were printed outlining eligibility and the Object was formulated. Marion Pollard of the Missouri State Society provided Colors and Motto: "Our Handclasp of Friendship Shall endure. Attempts were made with little success to write Bylaws and obtain Internal Revenue identification numbers.

In 1992, Dorothy Hoff of Marietta, Georgia became Governor General. She chose as her project to make the Society a legal structure by drawing up bylaws in compliance with Internal Revenue Service codes by obtaining Charitable Institution status for the Society. Patricia Hopkins, Treasurer General, spent her energy obtaining the proper IRS forms and identification number as

well as working with the insignia suppliers. Massachusetts Society organized in 1992. The publication of Volume I Ancestor Index in 1993 noted 500 members had joined the Society and the New York, Illinois and Indiana Societies were organized. State societies of Iowa, California, Michigan, South Carolina and Texas were organized during 1994.

During the 1992 – 1994 administration, the Indian Scholarship was initiated by Denise Rice and implemented by Eunice Connally Carr. Indian Schools were contacted and questioned about how best to proceed. Input was enthusiastic! The greatest need was at the college level. There was a demand for Indians in the social services and educational fields to go into practice on a reservation, becoming role models for Indian youth. These objectives and Indian descent formed the criteria for application, good grades and a plus, financial need was a factor, but not primary. The Society was searching for the best qualified student. An interest-bearing Scholarship was set up to be funded by gifts from the State Societies, individual members and money-raising projects. The \$500 annual scholarship was increased to \$1,000 in 2000.

Nancy Ragsdale of Kirkwood, Missouri assumed leadership of the Society in September 1994, with Membership as her priority. In 1995 Arkansas, Kansas, Maryland and Ohio State Societies were organized. The Indiana State Society failed to remain alive. During 1996 the Continental Society added Alabama and New Mexico State Societies.

In September 1996 Susan Chamberlain from Wellesley, Massachusetts became Governor General and chose as her project to increase the principal of the Scholarship Fund. She designed gold metal pins to acknowledge member's contributions of \$25 to \$1,000 to the fund. The red tote bag was her design. Proceeds from the pins and bags are still placed in the fund. Insignia had been secured from various companies until Susan, working with Shirley Shuler designed new Officer General, State and Chapter insignia and arranged for J. E. Caldwell & Co. to supply our insignia. It was finally completed in 2004.

The Alberta Provincial Society was chartered in 1997. Provincial Governor Sally Hlavey served to organize and charter what was the first society's international Society. Alberta joined with Arizona to form a single Society. Mrs. Hlavay has served the Continental Society in a number of offices since 1997.

The District of Columbia Society was organized 1997 and chartered by Eleanor Rhoeder. The Tennessee State Society also organized in 1997. Organizing Governors were named for Louisiana, Utah and Kentucky State Societies. During the spring of 1997, Georgia State Society formed the first Chapter and named it Coweta.

In 1998 after serving six years as Registrar General, Denise Rice of Decatur, Georgia was elected Governor General. She encouraged Marie Russell and the Texas Society to increase membership to over 100 members with two chapters, Tejas and Geronimo. Annette W. MacRae was named Organizing Governor for North Carolina Society. Governor General Rice gave tremendous support

to growth of the Scholarship Fund. She began by adding order forms for printed supplies, insignia and membership certificates printed in the ***Calumet***, to better reach the membership. During her term member Gladys Scott of Michigan compiled our first ritual.

Shirle Williams from Tulsa, Oklahoma was elected the Millennium Governor General. With a long Cherokee lineage and real interest in history, her projects centered on building stability and permanent knowledge about the Society. To add to the Scholarship Fund, a small booklet was published and sold – *Indian Wars and Passive Activities 1607 – 1900*. It is a brief narrative about each of the areas of membership eligibility, as written by our members and edited by Marlene Wilkinson of Tennessee Society. Details were adopted for the permanent storage of our lineage papers, records and history books at the Atlanta History Center. Insignia problems were solved with Caldwell and arrangements made for provision of sashes from Caldwell national sash loom, thus giving Dorothy Hoff a rest from hand sewing our officer general sashes. A Marker Chairman was named to mark historical sites and members graves. The *Handbook* was established to meet Society needs.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 and grounding of all air travel caused the cancellation of September Annual Council. This setback did not deter the growth and progress of the Society. In 2001 an Organizing Governor was named for Florida State Society, thus ending 13 years of organizing. In 2002 an Organizing Governor was named for Mississippi State Society. Georgia State Society has four chapters – Coweta, New Echota, Augusta Treaty and Bushy Creek. This term finished with membership of 976 Daughters.

Lucy Blocker of Bowie, Maryland was elected Governor General in September 2002, even though she was hospitalized and unable to attend the Annual Council. Lucy had great plans for our Scholarship Fund and the publishing of a collection of illustrated reports of Indian sites, trails, memorials, etc. She was able to attend only the 2003 Winter Board and Washington Social before her health worsened. Florida was organized during this time. Governor General Blocker directed Denise Rice to publish an Ancestor Index for the first 1,000 members. This hardbound book contains a reprint of Volume I and the new Volume II.

Marie Russell, First Deputy Governor General from La Port, TX conducted the 2003 Annual Council and Lucy Blocker resigned her office shortly afterwards, elevating Marie to the office of Governor General. Former Governor General Blocker died October 20, 2003. Our Society is stronger because of the years she gave to it. Governor General Marie Russell faithfully continued her projects by encouraging growth and preservation of historical research.

Jean Belew of Georgia became Governor General in 2006. Oklahoma Society organized two chapters – Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory during their 100th year of statehood. Tennessee Society organized three chapters – Treaty of Tellico, Ross Landing and Natchez Trace under Organizing State Governor Mary West. Georgia Society organized Indian Springs Chapter with Organizing Secretary Linda Meadows and Julia Farrigan.

Florida Society chartered with Anne Stewart organizing and Stephanie Stewart as State Governor in 2007. Tennessee Society - Natchez Trace organized 2007 and chartered July 27, 2008. Treaty of Tellico Blockhouse in Knoxville organized with Mary West and Charter Governor Charlotte Miller on August 4, 2008. Sharon Stine was appointed Organizing Governor for Virginia and chartered June 22, 2008. Angelina Chapter, Texas was organized by Chapter Governor Sara Collins Kurth. Their first elected Chapter Governor was Mary Macke Walker.

Marcia Weber was elected Governor General during 2008 Annual Council meeting near Chicago. She visited Georgia and California State Societies. Virginia State Organizing and Chartering Governor Sharon Stine organized a VA chapter requesting name of Trail of Tears on May 21, 2010. Virginia reorganized under the name of Virginia State Society.

Sally Wood Hlavay (Mrs. Joseph F.) was elected Governor General September 18, 2010 during the 22nd Annual Council meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri. Governor General Hlavay appointed Mrs. Robin Towns, Assistant Registrar General. Mrs. Karen Avery Miller was appointed Editor of the **Calumet** and Mrs. Camille Baxter, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary of the Society.

During Mrs. Hlavay's administration, the **Calumet** format changed to a full-page color publication, membership yearbook was published, Bylaws revised and published, the website (www.csdiw.org) updated with password protected members only section, comprised database of all Continental application papers (digitized from Continental #1 to latest approved application) and the Member at Large category reinstituted.

California State Society granted permission to form chapters in northern California – Fort Ross Chapter chartering on September 10, 2011 with Mary W Feist as Organizing Governor and in southern California – Shalawa Meadows Chapter chartering September 24, 2011 with Nancy Kilbourn as Organizing Governor. New York and Massachusetts State Societies were dissolved.

The 23rd Annual Council meeting 'Fiesta in the Desert' was held September 2011 in Tempe, Arizona and hosted by Alberta/Arizona Society. Invitation was issued by Michigan State Society to host the 24th Annual Council meeting during 2012. Announcement of the 25th Silver Anniversary Annual Council (2013) meeting will be held in Georgia.

August 27, 2011 Tejas Chapter, Texas Society placed a historical marker [with CSDIW insignia] at Founders Park, Huntsville, TX in honor of the Bedias Indians. California Society was granted permission to form chapters: northern California – Fort Ross Chapter chartering September 10, 2011, with Mary W. Feist, Organizing Governor and southern California – Shalawa Meadow Chapter chartering September 24, 2011, with Nancy Kilbourn, Organizing Governor. The Illinois State Society was reorganized November 3, 2011 with Shari Kelley Worrell appointed Reorganizing State Governor.

April 5, 2012 Spring Board of Management was held at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. Patricia Gallagher was appointed Louisiana Society Organizing State Governor. The Society adopted motion for creation of a 25-year anniversary pin and a 25-year membership pin.

Grand Rapids, Michigan was site of the 24th Annual Council September 2012. Michigan Society was hostess and 'Michigan Native American Tribes' was the theme. Members toured the Public Museum featuring a Native American exhibit and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum. During this meeting, Shelby Dean Ward was elected and installed as Governor General for 2012 – 2014. April 2013 Spring Board was held at Holiday Inn Central, Washington, D.C. and the 25th *Silver Anniversary* Annual Council, held September 2013, at Atlanta Airport Hilton, Atlanta, GA.

During the September 2014 Annual Council meeting at the Holiday Inn Central in Washington, D.C. Governor General Ward reported on the recent reenactment of the Massacre at Fort Mims. She was at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park to commemorate the decisive battle of the Creek War in Alabama. There were 250 members of the Muskogee Creek Tribe who had traveled from Oklahoma for this 200th anniversary of that battle. More than 5,000 people were in attendance over the weekend. The Indians had exhibits set up, did native dances and songs and booths with flyers, etc. set up to tell their story. Luminaries were set up with one candle for each life lost on the battlefield. It was a very sobering sight with candles across the battlefield.

Governor General Ward represented the Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars at the Alabama Society Colonial Dames of 17th Century State Conference, the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Colonists State Assembly, the Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution State Conference, the Alabama Society U.S.D. of 1812 State Council and at the events at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend 200th anniversary.

The 26th Annual Council meeting was held at the Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas during September 2014, where Karen Kurth Hall of Texas was elected and installed as Governor General. Members visited the Alamo and enjoyed San Antonio's River Walk. April 2015 Spring Board of Management and luncheon was held at the Army Navy Club, in Washington, D.C. The 27th Annual Council meeting was held September 2015 in Metairie, Louisiana, enjoying local tour guide and member Lynda Moreau's description of area, plus tour of Oak Alley Plantation. The 2016 Spring Board of Management was held at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C.

Buena Vista, FL was site of 28th Annual Council meeting during September 2016 and Ann Williams Garner of Georgia was elected and installed as Governor General. April 2017 Spring Board of Management and luncheon was held at Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C. During September 2017, the 29th Annual Council meeting was held at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Richmond, VA. Members enjoyed exploring the Shockoe historic area, a trolley tour and the opportunity for research at the VA Library and Archives.

Past Governor General Susan Chamberlain of Massachusetts passed away 28 December 2017.

Kentucky State Society chartered 22 March 2018 with 33 members, Jessieanne Wells serving as state governor. The 2018 Spring Board of Management and luncheon was held during April 2018 at Army Navy Club, Washington, DC. Nevada State Society received their state charter during this meeting, Rebecca Eisenman serving as State Governor with 38 new members.

The 30th Annual Council meeting was scheduled 13-16 September 2018 in Greenville, South Carolina at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel. Unfortunately, Hurricane Florence cancelled this meeting. The sitting Continental Officers General continued in their positions until April 2019 Spring Board meeting, with election of new general officers held in Washington, D.C. Each new Officer General elected will be considered holding a full term in office at end of their 2020 term.

Compiled by Helene Kirby Werner

Continental Society Historian General 2016 – 2019



Continued

The weekend of December 1-2, 2018 the State of Ohio was chartered. Betty "Betsie" Gricar Goad is the Organizing State Governor.

The April 4, 2019 Board of Management Meeting was held in Washington DC at the Army-Navy Club. Due to the cancellation of the 30th Annual Council Meeting Cheryl "Cher" Miller Sesma was elected to the Office of Governor General.

A new website was created by Bev Baker. A certificate and a teepee pin was created to be awarded to all members that are direct descendants of Native Americans. Two new chairmanships were created. Awards Chairman – awards will now be presented to State Societies for their hard work. Social Media Chairman – We now have a public and a private page on Facebook. A new lineage book is being worked on. Anne Farley, Finance Chairman is chairing a group to resolve non-profit status issue.

In 2019 the 31st Annual Council Meeting was held in Ontario, California September 19-21, 2019. A bus trip to San Juan Capistrano was enjoyed by many of the members. A new directory was

available for distribution. This white notebook contains Bylaws and Standing Rules, Handbook of the Society, Ritual, and a yearbook. This book was published by Karon Jarrard and is available to all members for \$25. Donation pins, organizing pins, and anniversary pins were ordered as many were out of stock. Table top flag sets are now available. The Indian Wars and Passive Activities booklet has been reprinted. The State of Iowa the State of New Mexico may be disbanding.

The April 1-2, 2020 Board of Management Meeting was to be held in Washington DC at the Army-Navy Club. April 1 was a planned marking at the Congressional Cemetery of the grave of Scarlet Crow Kan Ya Tu Duta, a Wahpeton Sisseton Sioux who disappeared under mysterious circumstances and was later found murdered. The society business meeting was to be held on April 2. However, due to the world wide coronavirus pandemic, all meetings in Washington DC planned for the month of April, 2020 have been cancelled. A phone meeting was held on April 20, 2020.

The next scheduled meeting (Annual Council Meeting) is planned for September 18-19, 2020 and is to be hosted by the Nevada State Society in Las Vegas.

Compiled by Susan Hess Moritz, June 2020

Continental Society Historian General 2019 – 2020



Continued

December 31, 2020

Due to the ever increasing positive virus tests and deaths (nationally), the 2020 32nd Annual Council Meeting has also been cancelled. It was with great sadness to the National Board to make the decision to cancel and great disappointment to the members of Nevada as they had put in a great amount of time and effort in the planning of this gathering. We thank them for all the planning they did.

In December the National Board took an electronic vote to cancel the planned March 31, 2021 Annual Board of Management Meeting which was to be held in Washington DC. Even though a vaccination to help fight the virus has been developed and started being disbursed during the

week of December 21, 2020, there was concern that it would not reach all citizens in time to continue the plans for this event. Especially because the vaccination is a 2-part injection administered about 12 weeks apart. At this time, an electronic ZOOM meeting is being planned.

Sue Moritz Historian General 2019-2021



Continued

January 2021. Organization of the Kennesaw Mountain Chapter in Georgia is very close to completing their task. They have 9 new members, 3 applications pending and 6 members awaiting transfer to this chapter.

March 12, 2021. The National Board Meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2021. It will be an Electronic ZOOM meeting. The Executive Board meeting is planned for the evening before, March 31, 2121 also via ZOOM.

Information received from the Registrar General – effective March 11, 2021 Registrar General Lynda Moreau has approved 181 applications during her term. The last member number assigned was 2501.

As of March 31, 2021 the society membership is 1,115. There were 23 deaths and 39 members dropped.

Sue Moritz Historian General 2019-2021
