



Fall 2020- Volume 120 No 1

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to each of you for your contributions over the past year to help support George Washington's ancestral home and your unwavering commitment to the Friends of Sulgrave Manor and its mission during this extraordinary time. With all of the uncertainty that the coronavirus pandemic has brought to our lives, you have continued to contribute generously. As a result, the Friends has been able to support staff and operations at the Manor in spite of the shutdown in the U.K., and we will be able to help to ensure a strong recovery from the crisis both financially and programmatically.

All staff at Sulgrave Manor were furloughed on April 1st but are now permitted to return to work with necessary precautions in place. The gardens were opened to visitors on July 20th. Phase II restoration of the Manor house was completed only a few days before the U.K. shutdown and, while the pictures in this newsletter show the interior before furnishings were back in place, we look forward to showing you both in person and virtually, how wonderful it now looks.

The Sulgrave Manor Trust Board welcomed two new members: Huw David, a Fellow and Development Director at Wolfson College, Oxford, and Polly Reeve, a lawyer with Fosters, LLP. These two new members round out the expertise of the Board. Nigel Bowles continues to lead the Board and is planning to launch a capital campaign to secure the future of Sulgrave Manor. We said goodbye to long-time Board member, Nancy Stewart, an American living in Northamptonshire with her British husband. Over the years Nancy has contributed so much, from managing the site when no staff were available to taking care of the collection; making sure that important items were conserved and stabilized. Nancy and her husband, Ian, hosted the Junior and Senior Representatives many times when they visited the U.K. for Trust Board meetings. Thank you, Nancy.

On the U.S. side, the launch of NSCDA's Great American Treasures website (greatamericantreasures.org) occurred in the spring of 2020 and we are pleased to report that Sulgrave Manor was included in the first curated collection of properties: The Colonial Continent (1539 – 1844). Funding for the new George Washington exhibit is being sought and to date enough has been secured for the designers to proceed with a dedication planned for May 2021. The business of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor has been conducted via electronic means with our committees meeting regularly. I know that all of us are disappointed that we will not be able to see our friends and colleagues in person at our annual meetings in October, but we plan to use Zoom which will allow us to see and hear each other while staying safe.

Our 2021 Friends of Sulgrave Manor trip to celebrate the centennial of the opening of Sulgrave Manor to the public is sold out. However there is a wait list. See page 4 for further details.

We are all facing a long and challenging list of unknowns, but I cannot emphasize enough that now more than ever is the time for us to reaffirm and promote the historic and symbolic role Sulgrave Manor serves in Anglo-American relations. Thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm in fulfilling this mission.

Caroline joins me in sending you our very best wishes.

Sally Congdon President, Friends of Sulgrave Manor NSCDA Senior Representative to Sulgrave Manor Trust

Friends of Sulgrave Manor

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We would like to thank all of the outgoing Associate Trustees of Sulgrave Manor. Their combined work and effort have greatly contributed to the increase in contributions from the respective states and to the awareness of Sulgrave Manor. We welcome and look forward to working with our New Associate Trustees.

Retiring Associate Trustees

- AR Mrs. Briant Noland
- DE Mrs. David Paul Roselle
- GA Mrs. Vernon Nathaniel Hansford
- KS Mrs. Paul Murray Buchanan
- MA Mrs. Charles Martin Hamann
- SC Mrs. Madison Baker Wyche III
- WY NA

Mrs. Bryan V. Goodwin (Sara)

New Associate Trustees

Mrs. George Forrest Pragoff (Page) Mrs. Robert Singelton Miller (Barbara) Elizabeth Winterbone Elizabeth Brewster Robinson (Beth) Mrs. Douglas McKay III (Pat) Colleen Winchell



New George Washington Exhibit Vicky Bradshaw, Honorary President and Chair, FSM GW Exhibit Committee

The renovation of Sulgrave Manor has been completed, and the lovely gardens became open to the public on July 20. New space for the important collection of George Washington memorabilia was created, and the George Washington Exhibit will make its debut at the centenary of the opening of Sulgrave Manor in 1921 at Sulgrave Day in May 2021.

We are extremely grateful to all of you who have made donations for the acquisition and care of the collection as well as the preparation of the new exhibition space. For those of you who have not taken the opportunity to be a part of this exciting new venture, it is not too late to join the group!

I hope to see you in 2021 at the celebration.

Letter from the Chairman - Nigel Bowles

The Year of all Years

When planning in 2019 for the reopening of the Manor in the Spring of 2020, the Trustees ought, perhaps, to have kept the words of the great Scots poet and part-time management consultant Robert Burns in mind: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley."



The Trust's best-laid plans for 2020 took no account of the risk that a coronavirus might emerge from a wet market in Wuhan, and spread across the globe to lethal effect upon vulnerable populations and economies everywhere. That no other organization anticipated such a pandemic gives little comfort. Companies, communities, and families

everywhere have suffered greatly.

Yet among the suffering have been good stories of people re-engaging with others in their communities and of companies and charities reimagining their business methods and re-examining their values. Sulgrave is just such a good story.

With the extraordinary financial support from the Friends of Sulgrave Manor, the NSCDA, the employment protection schemes devised and implemented rapidly by the UK Treasury, and with the energy of Sulgrave's staff led by Alison Ray, the Trust's Chief Executive, Sulgrave has survived the lockdown intact and financially stable. As is true of other British houses normally open to the public, so Sulgrave Manor itself must remain closed for the time being. The Manor's gardens have, however, reopened for viewing. It is a tribute to Sulgrave's gardening staff and volunteers that the borders look so splendid.

The Trust bade farewell to one Trustee in 2020, and welcomed two additions. Nancy Stewart, who will be known to many of the Friends, has left the Board after long and dedicated service. Nancy's expertise is broad and deep, her energy exceptional, and her generosity to the Trust considerable. The Trust is indebted to her. It is a pleasure to welcome Polly Reeves and Huw David to the Board. Polly is a practising lawyer with a large London firm, whilst Huw is Development Director at Wolfson College, the largest graduate college in the University of Oxford. I hope that many of the Friends will have the opportunity to meet Polly and Huw in the coming years.

Whilst the Board has given close attention to supporting Alison Ray in her clear-sighted and effective leadership of the Trust's response to the crisis, it has also given careful thought to two longer-term questions which, whilst not urgent, are of the first importance. The first is the appropriate use of the Trust's capital assets (including property), the income derived from them, and their growth; the second is the wider question of capital development. I hope during the remainder of this year and next to report more fully on the first of those questions, but am grateful for the opportunity to say something more about them now.

The Trust's core financial problem is that it runs a structural deficit of a significant size relative to annual turnover. It must be at least reduced and, preferably, closed. Improved use of existing assets will help. Yet if the Trust is to become financially self-sustaining, we will need to generate an annual surplus. The limited scope for generating more income from commercial opportunities has, accordingly, led to the Board deciding to create a capital development campaign in order to generate income from putting capital to work.

The campaign's object is to create an endowment fund of $\pounds 10$ million by 2030. Such a fund would, even on conservative assumptions about total return from a diversified asset allocation, yield some $\pounds 350,000$ per annum. We wish to create such a fund in order, as Huw David has helpfully put it, to ensure that Sulgrave is a house cared for and conserved in perpetuity; that its gardens might flourish abundantly; that Sulgrave's story can be told by exploring the lives of the Washington family; and that America's and Britain's shared stories be told for new generations.

Under Huw's expert guidance, Sulgrave's *In Perpetuity* campaign has the intermediate objects of establishing an annual giving campaign with targets for each of the first three years, a legacy programme, and the encouragement of capital gifts. We intend that the campaign be transatlantic, encouraging donations from all those who recognize and celebrate Sulgrave's place in our two nations' stories.

No doubt the path to a $\pounds 10$ million endowment will not run smooth. Robert Burns's commentary on the *best laid schemes* o' mice an' men will perhaps again come to mind when fund raising seems especially difficult. But with your help, and the help of all you know who either already think Sulgrave special or who might be persuaded that it is, I am confident that we will combine to ensure that Sulgrave's place is indeed In Perpetuity.

Dr. Nigel Bowles Chairman, Sulgrave Manor Trust Sulgrave Manor Manor Road Sulgrave, Northamptonshire OX17 2SD Charity No. 1003839

A Taste of History



One of the most impressive upstairs rooms at Sulgrave Manor is the Great Chamber, which features a beautifully polished oak floor. The centre piece of the room is a superbly carved Elizabethan four poster bed obtained from Battle Abbey.

One object on display is a small embroidered Stuart toilet mirror. The embroidery designs on this mirror were used as patterns for the new bed hangings. The bed hangings are the result of the Elizabethan Embroidery Project which celebrated a double Elizabethan celebration: 50 years on the throne for Queen Elizabeth II and the 400th anniversary of the death of Queen Elizabeth I.

The project was an 8 year undertaking by volunteers from across Britain and the US to create a hand-stitched Elizabethan style green velvet hanging with valence. Carolyn Barrani organized the United States' part of the needlework project which produced over 1000 pieces.

Sold out trip to Sulgrave Manor! May 24-30, 2021

We are thrilled to announce that the Friends of Sulgrave Manor official Centennial Journey to Sulgrave Manor in May 2021 is sold out, however there is a wait list. The trip will commemorate 100 years of

Sulgrave Manor's opening and dedication in addition to over 200 years of lasting peace between Great Britain and America. Here is the itinerary at a glance:

Day 1: Depart the U.S.

Day 2: Arrive in London

Day 3: Great Houses & Gardens of London

Day 4: Member's Day at the Chelsea Flower Show

Day 5: Exclusive Access to the Hatfield House & East Garden

Day 6: Private Estates & Gardens of Northamptonshire

Day 7: Sulgrave Day: Centennial Celebration of the Opening of Sulgrave Manor to the Public

Day 8: Return Home or Continue to Wales

For more information go to: <u>https://www.ctjourneys.com/sulgrave-manor-journey-2021</u>

Friends of Sulgrave Manor Bookmark

One superlative selection to enhance your personal walks this year, your travel to England next year, and your FSM Dames' camaraderie and book groups.

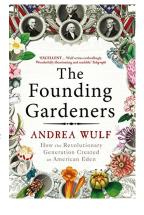
FOUNDING GARDENERS by Andrea Wulf paperback version published 2012, 368 pp. \$14.79 from Amazon

It is hands-down my personal favorite book of the last two years. Do let us know if it turns out to be one of yours!

To entice with three examples, you will be inspired by...

- The amazing garden visit made by clashing representatives to our Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia
- By Adams' and Jefferson's surprise on their break from 1786 trade negotiations in London to see gardens
- By Madison and Jefferson's journey to New England in 1791!





For additional recommended books, reach out to Kay Glenday, <u>skglenday@aol.com</u>

Letter from Sulgrave Manor CEO – Alison Ray

What a year we have had since the last annual newsletter! This time last year we were mid way through the season and

enjoying the benefits of our Phase 1 external restoration. The new visitor entrance was proving popular and even our small self service coffee area in the Brewhouse was a hit with our family visitors.

We welcomed new visitors to Sulgrave Manor through our new Toddler Time sessions where we invited families with young children to visit earlier in the morning. This initiative saw us making new friends within the village of Sulgrave and also helped strengthen links with local village schools.

The family area has matured well and the addition of a mud kitchen and water painting was greatly enjoyed by children.

The replanted Rose garden took shape despite some very dry weather and the success of the planting scheme gave the garden team the confidence to replant surrounding beds this summer.

Elsewhere we re-shaped and divided the 'hot' border, showcasing plants with red, orange and yellow blooms which had become too full over the course of a few years.

Inside, our George Washington Ideas Lab space was very useful as a way to engage with our visitors and ask them what they wanted from our upcoming exhibition. We posed questions about his life and our collections and gathered feedback about

MANY THINGS . FARMER, SURVEYO

what visitors really want to see and learn. Surprisingly these weren't always the answers we expected to get.

We continued to update our collections documentation and start to gather images of objects to be stored with the main database. This improved knowledge will be of great value when selecting objects for the new exhibitions and in supporting our stories for visitors.

Group visits were steady with new groups visiting us and some regular supporters returning to see any changes.

After another successful October half term event, complete with pumpkin carving and marshmallows over a fire pit, we set about the task of emptying the Manor for Phase 2, interior restoration.

For the staff, this was the most exciting project we have undertaken in recent years and one which would see the biggest transformation of our site.

You will have seen the before, during and after images I have shared through

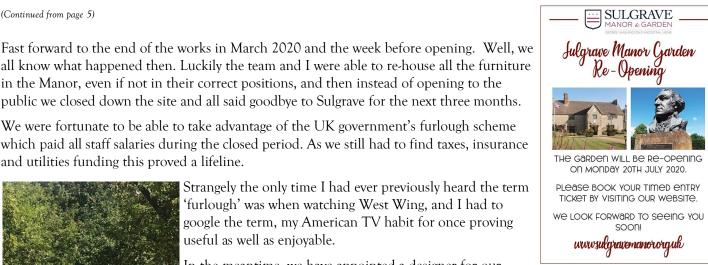
Sally and Caroline, but it really cannot truly reflect the enormous improvement that can be seen throughout the house. We are now very proud of the Manor and can't wait to add new interpretation and share new stories with our visitors to add the icing on the cake.

Restoration work was all encompassing and at times fairly terrifying as the result of years of adhoc repairs and quick fixes were quite literally torn down revealing the bare bones of our Tudor treasure. Traditional plasterers were excited, if not a little daunted, by the mix of materials they were confronted with under the early 20th century cement plaster repairs. Sometimes the walls seemed to be made of little more than mud and grass which came out in the clumps it was made with. Despite the challenge the result is excellent and behind the authentic lime plaster there also now sits a modern and safe electrical and heating system.

For the first time we can control the temperature within the Manor and although temperatures are designed for collections and not people, on walking through the Manor the previous pervasive damp atmosphere is gone.









Strangely the only time I had ever previously heard the term 'furlough' was when watching West Wing, and I had to google the term, my American TV habit for once proving useful as well as enjoyable.

In the meantime, we have appointed a designer for our

in the Manor, even if not in their correct positions, and then instead of opening to the

exhibitions and as fundraising continues so does the research and planning ready for the opening of the new spaces in 2021. Many thanks to those of you who have already contributed to making this happen.

As I write on 20th July the garden has just re-opened and the first visitors of the year have arrived. The online pre-booking system is working well, although we aren't able to open the Manor this season, visitors can at least come to the garden and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere.

Fingers crossed for good weather and good health, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2021 to a re-vitalised Manor and some fabulous new exhibitions.

Planning a trip to the UK - Come visit us!!

Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of George Washington, is situated in the village of Sulgrave, just off the B4525 road from Banbury to Northhampton. Oxford and Stratford are approximately 30 miles distant. London is 70 miles away via either the M1 or M40, or by train into Banbury.

To request a private tour, contact <u>groupbookings@sulgravemanor.org.uk</u> and let them know you are a Dame!!

Great American Treasures Welcomes Sulgrave Manor

Despite the many challenges of this year, the Great American Treasures project has made an incredible amount of progress over the past several months. Perhaps most significantly, and after much anticipation, the official website – www.greatamericantreasures.org - went live on May 19, 2020. Users from all over the United States, and even the world, have accessed the new website nearly 9,000 times in the first two months. During that time, Sulgrave Manor has been the third most visited destination page!

The launch of the website isn't the only cause for celebration or the only way that Great American Treasures is being introduced to a wider audience. In June, an advertisement for the program was featured in the travel planner of Southern Living Magazine, and throughout the month nearly 1,000 subscribers requested more information. Additionally, from June through August, Great American Treasures is the sponsor of a public radio show called A Moment in Time with Dan Roberts. Daily, as many as two million people hear this radio spot that ends with a shout-out to our initiative. Further recognition has come from local and national news services and publications (such as the Beacon Hill Times in Boston and the New Criterion) running announcements that the initiative is live. We hope to build on this momentum with more earned and paid press in the weeks and months ahead so that new eyes can continue to meet our Treasures!



GREAT AMERICAN TREASURES™

Historic Places Curated by The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America

Margaret Cannon Boyce Brown

Reflections on being a member of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America and of her time with Sulgrave Manor

Interviews conducted by Sally Congdon and Caroline Goedhart, Spring 2020

Margaret Cannon Boyce Brown (Mrs. S. Spencer Neville Brown) is a remarkable woman. Margaret is a 97-year-old dynamo. She served as Junior Representative to the Sulgrave Manor Board from 1986 to 1990, and then as Senior Representative from 1990 to 1996. In June 2004, the Friends of Sulgrave Manor had an extravaganza in Oxford, England, where Margaret was a special guest of honor.



Margaret Cannon Boyce Brown (Mrs. S. Spencer Neville Brown)

Her accomplishments are many. Margaret, a fourth generation Texan, grew up in Amarillo, Texas. She attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning her B.S. in 1944, went on to earn her M.A. from Columbia University in 1945, followed by an appointment to the faculty at the University of Texas in Austin in 1946. Five years later she met her future husband, Spencer Brown, at the Idlewild Ball in Dallas; when they married in 1951, she moved to Waco, Texas. Her commitment to community service locally, statewide, nationally and internationally is life-long. She has played a founding or leadership role in children's education, the arts and preservation. Some examples are: Founder of St. Paul's Episcopal Day School in Waco; Founding member and currently on Advisory Board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; Council member of the Natural Sciences Advisory Council of the University of Texas; Member of the Texas Commission on the Arts; Member of Historic Waco Foundation Board; and she was instrumental in the purchase and restoration of the first historic home in Central Texas. She was Founding Chairman of the Waco Cotton Palace Pageant, a revival of a 1894-1930 festival: she still serves on its corporate board.

Margaret's contributions to The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America have included: serving as Chairman of the Waco Committee of the Texas Society from 1960 to 1962 and again from 1971 to 1974, and on the Board of Managers from 1971 to 1974. She then served as President of the Texas Society from 1974 to 1978. In 1980, she was elected Corresponding Secretary of the NSCDA and served until 1986. In 1986 she was appointed NSCDA Junior Representative to the Sulgrave Manor Board serving until 1990 when she became Senior Representative, a position she held until 1996.

She is the mother of five children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. We are pleased that her niece, Anne Boyce Folkes, is currently serving as a Trustee of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor.

Margaret has many stories to tell about her wonderful life. We recently had the privilege of interviewing Margaret. Part I of this article was published in the Spring 2020 *Dames Dispatch*. Both Part I and Part II are included here.

Why did you join the NSCDA?

I had a new baby when Mother Brown [Mrs. Stanton Brown (Maria), President of the Texas Society from 1954 to 1958 and subsequently NSCDA Junior and Senior Representative to the Sulgrave Manor Board], whom I adored, called me one day and said, "Darling, you are going to be invited to become a Colonial Dame, and you must say "yes". I said "Mother, I have a new baby and can't do that right now". She responded, "You might not be invited later and, besides, I need a driver". She was ready to go in as President of the Texas Society. ... It was the best decision I ever made, and I had the best time with Mother and her Dames friends. I did not know how much fun the Dames was going to be.

What does it mean to you to be a Colonial Dame?

To be able to work with all of these smart, wonderful women, is another gift. You just feel so privileged because here are these wonderful people, who are so creative, dedicated, and on the same wavelength you are... The longer I was with



Portrait of Mother Brown (Mrs. Stanton Brown–Maria)

Sulgrave, the more exciting it got because the more I learned about it. There was always something there that made it not only fun and interesting, but that you felt you were spending your time wisely. What an exciting and rewarding privilege!

... it is such a joy to have ideas and put them in motion and then look back to see that something you did was creative and helped. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunities I have had to put some ideas in motion and to find wonderful people who have come up with ideas that I could put in motion. I think it is a gift to be in that situation... We become a catalyst and I think it is what the Lord wanted us to do.

Margaret's English Roots:

According to her son, Spencer Brown, Jr., Margaret has English roots.

Her mother, a rancher's daughter (and scion of the legendary Texas cattleman, Bill Curtis, who set a world record for most cattle in a single drive), growing up in the wild west of the Texas panhandle, discovered through her tireless genealogy research that she had an ancestor in medieval England, named Henry Beaufort (a Plantagenet) who was one of John Gaunt's children.

John was a Duke and owner of numerous English estates in the 1400's not to mention that he was one of Edward III's sons. Henry Beaufort's daughter Jane and her husband, Sir Edward Stradling, a knight, lived at St. Donat's Castle in Wales. Some of their descendants eventually migrated to America in the 1600's way before America was even a country.

Margaret's ancestor, Alice Curtis, somehow ended up in the frontier lands and wide-open spaces of Texas in the 1800's... Margaret, the unofficial, Grande Dame of Waco, has always tried to improve anything she was involved in.

How did you become involved with Sulgrave Manor?

At a time when the Junior and Senior positions were for life, Mother, who was Senior Representative, was badly hurt in an auto accident. Frances Moore took over as Senior, followed by Wylie Wheat. When Wylie Wheat

became Senior, Inez Bridgford, National



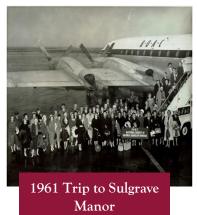
Margaret as National Corresponding Secretary

President at the time, asked me to serve as Junior. By then the terms were five as Junior and five as Senior. Since my term as National Corresponding Secretary was coming to an end, I accepted with pleasure, considering it a "plum" job." When Mother Brown, who was a sweet, low-key, very Mack truck in velvet gloves sort of lady, went over for Sulgrave Manor Board meetings, she found out that Lord Spencer didn't like women to talk. She said she was quiet, but he never called on her. She asked to have the floor, but he still didn't call on her. As a result, when she came back from the meetings, she always wrote a letter to Lord Spencer with her comments. He complimented her on her letters, but he still didn't call on her.

I went on with the intention of serving five and five, but after four years, Wylie felt that she had been with Sulgrave Manor for a long time and decided to resign. Her husband was blind and she felt needed at home. I then became Senior which put me in place earlier. Tenny Marshall then

became Junior... Tenny and I didn't know each other, but Dames are Dames and we became great friends.

One of Margaret's many stories has long become Sulgrave lore. In 1961 a group of members, led by Maria Brown, Margaret's mother-in-law, chartered a BOAC plane and left from New York to celebrate the



first "Dames Day" at Sulgrave Manor. She had hoped to have Claridge's cater tea but because it coincided with a holiday in England, it was not possible:

Only she would pack up all her silver [along with tea cakes, cookies and petit fours] in her trunk and take them to England because she was determined to have a nice party. When she told us what she was going to do, we all rolled our eyes. She was so cute and so proud of the fact that she pulled it off.

What changes have occurred with the Friends of Sulgrave Manor?

When Margaret began her tenure as Senior Representative, the Friends of Sulgrave Manor met only every two years at Biennial.

Things took off when Tenny started annual meetings. Now we have such wonderful representatives and when you come every year and get to know others, they become interested in the people with whom they are working. Everyone has cut back so meetings are very short, and you don't get to know the people. Time to visit a bit is important. Tour day provides this time to visit and talk about jobs and family, to make friends. It is that friendship bond that keeps everyone going."

It is difficult to raise funds in the U.K. The Friends had bought land and buildings that could be rented, but it was clear that we needed some way to get some funds.

What is the evolution of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor Trips and what special tours do you recall?

Wylie Wheat started the trips and turned them over to Margaret. She worked with Judy Peale in St. Louis, who was not a Dame but was great friends with some.

> For the ten years I served, I worked with Judy Peale and Susie Worthy and we made beautiful music together. Two trips were planned every two years to coincide with Sulgrave Day which was also known as Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor. One trip was planned in the U.K and another planned for the Continent. We went everywhere, including Italy, France, all over the British Isles, including river boat cruises. All travelers gave an extra donation to the Friends. And it worked like a charm... Judy Peale and Susie Worthy would tailor the trips for us...We had the best time and

raised a lot of money for Sulgrave Manor.

Caroline Weston, originally from England, daughter of Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, was a good friend of mine and she and her family became close friends... Susie knew many of these families and we were on the ground floor of visiting the stately homes and even having meals at some of the homes. You could also stay in some, but



Margaret and Spencer at Royal Ascot

we never did try that with 30 at a time. When we were planning the trips in England, Susie was such a great help.

We did the Flower Show and Royal Ascot, where we got to stay in the Royal Enclosure and I have a picture of Spencer and me in my big hat.

If there was any stately home, we saw it and had lunch or dinner. It was the most glamorous and fun time and really put Sulgrave on the map. We did many of the stately homes, such as Highclere, Highgrove (Prince Charles' gardens) ... and the American Museum in Bath.

What do you recall about the Sulgrave Manor Board meetings?

Sir Philip Goodhart was Chairman of the Board when I came on. Before him, his father had been chairman. His father had come over to England in WWI, ended up marrying a British girl and stayed in England. He taught at Oxford and had a chair named after him. The Goodharts had a home named "White Barn" about 30 minutes from Oxford. (His wife's father, John Winant, an American, had been the U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain) Sir Philip and Val had seven children. She was a lovely person; she really didn't have a very big staff but she always gave the most lovely dinners.

During my time, the Board would meet in London one day and then travel to Sulgrave Manor to meet again the next day. The Goodharts always insisted that we stay with them, and always made us feel welcome. They were so appreciative about what we were doing for the Manor.

The people who were so helpful were the Hudsons, the Magnays, the Sitwells, and Jill Knight (Baroness Collingtree). They were kind and ready to help. A good number of members of the Board had one parent who was American, which tells you what happens when you have World Wars and a lot of people stationed there.

All of the members of the Board were not only gracious, but welcoming. The people that I worked with were just such wonderful people. It made it not a job, but a pleasure. They were so eager to do whatever was going to be good for the house.

During my tenure as Senior Representative, we were invited to tea at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, Winfield House, commissioned by Barbara Hutton in 1936, and subsequently donated to the U.S. Department of State. Henry Catto, Jr. from San Antonio, Texas, was the U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom at the time.

What occurred at Sulgrave Day, also known as Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor?

Sulgrave Day, also known as Dames Day at Sulgrave Manor, always involved some of the officers from RAF Croughton, a Royal Air Force base near Sulgrave, for the flag ceremony. Sir Philip always invited some of his friends in Parliament and we were fortunate to have Jill Knight, Baroness Knight of Collingtree, DBE, who became a great friend. Dames Day was always really a high point. It was fun, it was beautiful, it was impressive, because they had the flags up and the house always looked lovely and everyone really loved it. Sir Philip got the first George Washington exhibit completed. Anyone who has had anything to do with the house has always become sort of enamored and after they went home, they wanted to make wonderful contributions. You don't just go and then come home: you want to do something to help.

Margaret's husband, Spencer, came home and wanted to provide funding for the new Courtyard Hall which they did. Margaret and Spencer's names are engraved in the peak of the main room.

> It was his idea and we had just come back and I was ready to go off the Board and they wanted to get the building started and he gave the money for it.

The other thing that Sir Philip did at the time and I'm sure it is still going on is he always had someone impressive come and be our speaker, and one of the most

Margaret with Lady

Thatcher and John

Keffer at Sulgrave

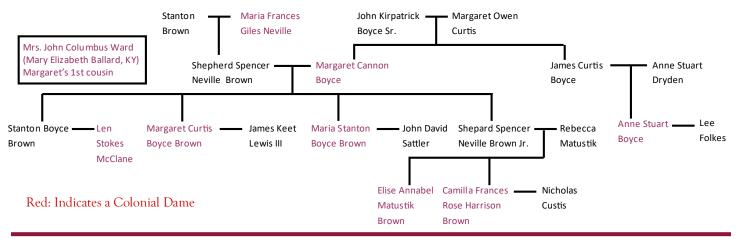
Manor

exciting things I did as Sr. Representative was to sit next to these people. Among them were Margaret Thatcher (she was an impressive person, charming, pretty, spoke well, gracious, went around to speak to everybody and was so delightful), Churchill's grandson and Sir Roger Bannister ("4 Minute Mile Man"). John Keffer, President of the American Museum in Bath would attend Sulgrave Day often.

> Sulgrave Manor is warm, it is unique, it is correct and it is just a wonderful thing. Sulgrave Manor speaks to you and I love what we have done with it. I'm so proud of the Dames for stepping up to the plate, if they hadn't gone to work and raised the money, who knows where it would be now.

What a privilege it was for us to be able to visit with Margaret who radiates warmth and love for all of the people her life touches.

The Brown Family NSCDA Legacy



The Washington Shields

The Washington shields in Fawsley church are originals and were previously installed in Sulgrave Manor. We are not entirely sure how they were brought to Fawsley, other than that they came in 1830 during a period of reconstruction at Sulgrave Manor.

The Washington Family Shield



Coat of Arms of Robert Washington (1455-1528), second son of his father, thus the use of a crescent as a heraldic mark of difference.



Second marriage, in 1538 of Lawrence Washington, to Amy Pargiter.



First marriage, in 1565 of Robert Washington, to Elizabeth Light.



The Washington Family Marriage Shield

Marriage of Lawrence Washington's second son to Martha Newce.



Marriage of Amy Washington, granddaughter of Lawrence Washington to Alban Wakelyn.

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(Continued from page 11)

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The Critic's Notebook

by The Editors

Katherine Davis

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On Christo, Clarence Thomas, Bach cantatas & more from the world of culture.



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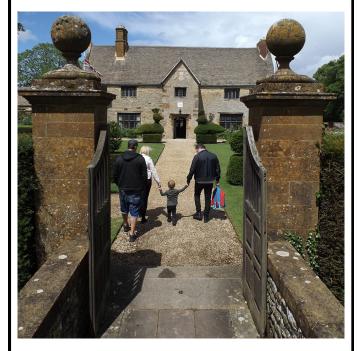
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Laura Rutherford, Baroness Jill Knight of Collingtree and Betty Chilton

Watson Chair Dinner November 7th, 2008

Tibbie Field, former Senior Representative, in response to our request for Sulgrave Stories, sent this picture and story:

At the November 7th, 2008 Watson Chair Dinner, the Baroness Jill Knight of Collingtree, Chairman of the Sulgrave Manor Board, was asked to give the Blessing. After asking us to bow our heads, she gave the following Grace:

"God of Goodness, Bless our Food

Keep us all in a pleasant Mood

Bless the cooks and all who serve us

From Indigestion, Lord, Preserve us!"

Needless to say, everyone gave a big smile when we raised our heads!

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Grace Whatley

Julie Whiting

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- GA Mary Drayton Osteen
- GA Emily Owens
- GA Mrs. John Palmer
- GA Karen Pannell
- GA Mrs. Alfred Pearson, Jr. GA Kathryn Pennington
- Mrs. Hugh Peterson GA
- GA Sarah Phillips
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- GA Amburn Power
- GA Adrian Pressley

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GA Kathleen Strom

- GA Barbara Swift
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 - GA Regina Tillman
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Lynn Treadwell

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- Bunny Winge GA Carol Worley
- GA Amy Wright GA

GA Jacquelyn Wright

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- KY Carol Baughman Elizabeth Blodgett KY ΙA KY Marcey Broderson LA ΚY Alice Cary Brown LA ΚY Eleanor Brown LA KY Ellen Chapman LA KY Cindy Codell KY Judith Cook LA KY Louise Creason LA KY Katherine Dalton LA Iulie Davis KY LA KY Sarah Davis LA Shirley Dumesnil LA KY ΚY Jessie Fennell ΙA KY Roberta Fischer LA Ann Fleming KY Katherine Flood KY LA KY Margaret Gardiner KY Holly Gray LA Elizabeth Hardy KY LA KY Whitney Hardy LA KY Susan Hart LA Alice Ingram KY LA KY Ruth Lawton LA ΚY Jennie Leavell ΚY Monnie Gay Long MA KY Iane MacKenna MA KY Elise Markham MA KY Mavin Martin MA KY Leslie McConnell MA KY Leslie Miller MA KY Mary Montague MA Kate Mulhearn KY KY Susan Neal KY Martha Nichols ΚY Martha Nicol MA KY Lucy Park MA KY Celia Parsons MA KY Margaret Patterson KY Judy Philpott MA KΥ Holly Poling MA KY Gwynne Potts MA Will and Happy Rowe Mona Powell N. Belinda Schmitt KY MA KY Myra Prewitt MA Ann Sears Martha Rankin KY MA Marcia Synnott MA Elizabeth Thorndike KY EC Rightmyer KY Maria Roach KY Sarah Jane Schaaf Marguerite Ayers MD Muffy Stuart KY MD Mary Pat Berry KY Beverly Sweeny MD Grace Brady KY Margaret Thomas Mary Draper MD Mrs. William Cornelia Stanley Fowler KΥ MD Whittenberg MD Anne Gray KY Susan Wilburn Frances Harwood MD MD Helene Hill Caroline Lancaster Bevan Elizabeth Hobbs LA MD Mary-Virginia Bevan MD Madeleine Hughes LA LA Ninette Brierre MD Phoebe Randolph Susan Cage LA Levering Iane Charbonnet Francis Matthews LA MD Caroline Christman MD Mary Park LA LA Cindy Dupree Coffey MD Virginia Patterson Jeanne Riggs Betty Middleton Cole LA MD Leta DeFee Elizabeth Scott LA MD LA Linda Dowling MD Charlotte Templeton Lorraine Friedrichs LA LA Mrs. George Gammon ME W Avery Jenkins MF. LA Barbara Treat Green Caroline Knott LA Iulia Grehan ME NSCDA in Maine Mary Madison Griswold Mrs. Joseph Robinson LA ME Lissa Grounsell LA
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- Inabnett
- Mrs. James Kepper
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- Susan Shelby Harding
- Theresa Hewitt
- Jill Alison Hornor
- MA Edith Hunnewell
- MA Elizabeth Johnson MA Karen Melican
- NSCDA in MA
- Laura Payson
- Constance Plimpton MA Margaret Richardson
- Elizabeth Robinson

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Marie Robinson

(Continued from page 17) ME Mary Louise Sprague ME Martha Timothy MS Victoria Ackerman MS Julia Boomer MS MI Francesca Cinelli MS Helen Jean Dodenhoff MS Martha Fordon MS Barbara Gentile MI MS Nancy Keuffel MI Elsie Mackethan MI NC Gioconda McMillan NC Rosemary McNair NC Nancy Nicholson NC Suzanne Nicholson NSCDA in MI NC MI Sarah Ollison NC Rebekah Randall NC Iane Reuther NC MI Suzanne Schluederberg Cynthia Semple MI NC MI Dr. Susan Smith NC Carol Stephenson NC Carla Stroh NC Anna Warren WK Kellogg Foundation NC MI Jean Zerges NC NC MN Priscilla Brewster NC MN Brenda Canedy MN Susan Dunnavan NC MN Ann Essling NC MN Judy Thompson Fischer MN Olivia Ford NC Carol Hancock NC MN MN Hilary Heiland NC MN Margery Hensel MN Penny Hornig NC MN Jane Howard NC MN Ruth Huss NC MN Jane Johnson NC MN Kathy Johnson NC Sarah Lebedoff MN NC MN Sarah Lindahl MN Lois Mackin NE Susan McCarthy NE MN MN NSCDA in MN NF MN Pauline O'Brien NE MN Kandi Osborn NE MN Julia Palmer NE MN Jennifer Peterson NF. MN Mary Ellis Peterson NE Kitty Petit MN NE Nancy Pexa MN NE MN Kate Piper MN Lucinda Pratt NH MN Ames Sheldon NH MN Lucy Shephard NH MN Mimi Stake NH MN Lynn Stryker NH MN Ruth Stryker-Gordon NH MN Maxine Wallin NH MN Katharine Winston NH NH MO Christy James NH MO Pauline Keinath NH MO Linda McCov NH MO NSCDA in MO NH NH

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MO Carolyn Rayner

MO Caro Schneithorst Reed

MO Elizabeth Robinson MO Caro Schneithorst MO Anne Wetzel **Eulalie** Davis Hermine Granberry Mary Donnelly Haskell Frances Morse NSCDA in MS Linda Robertson Mary Yerger Nancy Andrews Cynthia Boylan Louise "Muffy" Boylan NSCDA in NC Cabarrus TC Elizabeth Clarke Nancy Clement Susan Creighton Orange TC Virginia Finley Martha Gallop Mary Gornto NSCDA in NC Guilford TC Margaret Hamilton Grace Kelly NSCDA in NC Mecklenburg TC Marie Mickey Miranda Miles NSCDA in NC Nash TC NSCDA in NC Mary Oglesby NSCDA in NC Pee Dee ТC Mrs. Sherwood Smith Dora Taylor Elizabeth Stuart Taylor Anne Boone Urquhart Catherine Williams Katherine Yelverton Cynthia Anderson Susan Chenoweth Elizabeth McNichols Sarah Ginn Margaret Hornady NSCDA in NE Julie Schroeder Mrs. Lee Seemann Laurie Smith Sandra Von Riesen Ginevera Barta Linda Begiebing Elaine Blaylock Chervl Cullimore Barbara Engelbach Elizabeth Field Karin Hargy Susan Haydock Elizabeth Higgins Elizabeth Hoefler

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- Elizabeth Mauran
- Susan Moore

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- - NH
 - NH **Texas** Instruments
 - Foundation NH Mary Waples

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OK Joyce Stewart

- - NSCDA in NC Durham-

- NSCDA in NH
- NH Kathy Richards

- NH Sally Smyser
 - Sally Horner Smyser

Karine Ansede

Nancy Bassett

Mary Bauer

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Bess Fuchs

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Ragna Sloane

Sheila Traub

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Elizabeth Johnson

Virginia Johnson

Barbara Landen

Shirley McCombe

Louella Mitakides

NSCDA in Ohio

Ianet Simpkinson

Joanne Sloneker

Carrie Royalty

OH Priscilla Schwier

Emily Todd

OK Candice Ainsworth

Melissa Clements

Margaret Hawkins

Adelaide Liedtke

Margaret Malloy

NSCDA in OK

NSCDA in OK Central

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Sody Clements

Angela Box

Mrs. Louis Rorimer

Nancy Kollin

Sue B. Minor

Sarah Raup Johnson

Carol Cole

Anderson

Catherine Strauch

Iudith Mann Villard

Allison Worthington

Caroline Firestone

Mary Prendergast

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OR Mary Rogness OR Kathryn Archie

OK Patty Tague

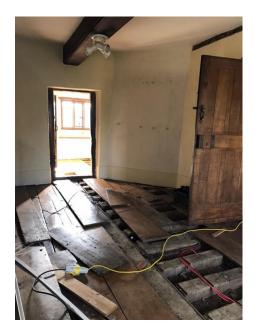
- OR Joan Bailey
- OR Greata Beatty

Stephanie Watts

Catherine Wootten

- OR Debbie Boone
- OR Sandra Brody
- Dede DeJager OR
- OR Julie Ferro

- PA Ann Gregg
- PΑ Susan Hedrick
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PA

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Betsy Teti

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Sharon Smith

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Zulette Catir

Briggs Larki

Betsy Leerssen

Mary Meadows

NSCDA in RI

Rebecca Alkis

Martha Allison Paula Baker

Constance Baldwin

Elizabeth Baucom

Margaret Bouch

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Jodie Allen

Kim Robey

Marion Meadows

Joan Wickersham

Hannah Childs

Cynthia Lafferty

Julia Winton

Jane Foster Willson

- OR Ann Flowerree
- OR
- Barbara Freeman
- OR Janis Harrison
- OR Susan Kasper
- OR Cindy Kaul Sally LeFeber OR
- OR Catlin Lind
- OR Elisabeth Lyon

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OR Melinda MacColl OR Jane Malarkey

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Anne Burnett

Sally Congdon

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Sara Cooke

Frances Reid Thomas

Susan Rambo

Carla Staub

Mary Lou McClung

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Eileen Moody

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Newsletter of the Friends of Sulgrave Manor George Washington's English Ancestral Home The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America

Mrs. James B. Congdon Sr. Representative to Sulgrave Manor 151 Tannery Run Circle Berwyn, PA 19312

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Caroline Goedhart, Editor



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