



Col. John Alston Chapter

National Society Daughters of the American Colonists

*“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”
- Albert Camus*

Autumn 2020

Col. John Alston

Who was he? Find out the background of our chapter's namesake.

Page 2

Meet our Members

Find out all about member Susan Cole.

Page 3

Photo Contest!

Photo contest open to all NSDAC members—find details here!

Page 4

COVID19 Update—Meetings must go on (safely)

The September meeting was held in a split format—with a few members in person at Siegi's Restaurant, while several more joined via Zoom.

The meeting, held September 24, featured a preview of the State Regent's Project, which included continuing support of “our” student, Rebecca Tiffée, a student at the College of the Ozarks. State Regent Dr. Orriene Denslow reminded us that the Col. John Alston Chapter will be hosting the state assembly this year, which is also the 100th anniversary of DAC. At this point, all fingers are crossed that we will actually be able to have that assembly in person.



Chapter members were reminded to review the updated bylaws in anticipation of a vote for their adoption at the December meeting. With the exception of adding sections dealing with virtual/on-line meetings, most of the other corrections/additions, etc., are minor. The updating brings our bylaws in accordance with the national standards.



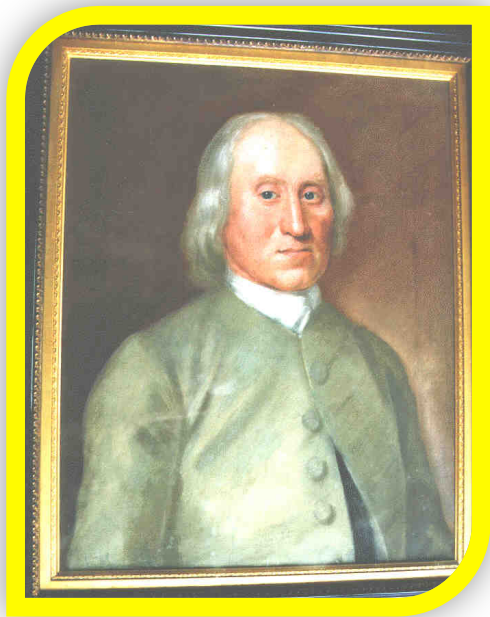
December meeting

Thursday, December 10

IMPORTANT INFO

While we WILL have a meeting Dec. 10, what format that meeting will be in remains to be seen. Watch your email for more information as we get closer to the meeting date. Worst-case scenario is we'll do an entirely Zoom meeting.





Col. John Alston, age 74



Possible Alston tombstone

Who, exactly, was Col. John Alston?

As DAC approaches its 100th year anniversary, you might be asking questions such as “Who was the original founder of DAC?” Or “Why was DAC developed?” Closer to home, you might be asking, “Who was Col. John Alston?”

What we know about Col. John Alston is this—he was the son of John and Anne (Wallis) Alston, born in England in 1673, and was baptized on 5 December 1673 in Felmersham, Bedfordshire, England.

He married Mary Clark around 1700, and the couple had at least 10 children. In order, their children were Joseph John, Solomon, William, Phillip, James, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Martha, and Charity.

Alston may have first emigrated to the West Indies or possibly South Carolina before moving to Virginia and on to North Carolina. The first reference to Alston in the colonies is a land grant of 270 acres on Bennett’s Creek in North Carolina in 1711. This land was near where Gatesville now stands. Over the course of his lifetime, Alston made it his personal goal to set up his children as landowners.

Alston served as a juror in 1715, a grand juror in 1721-1724, and an associate justice from 1724-1729. He was named a revenue collector in 1725.

In 1724 he also became a Justice of the Peace. By 1729 he had the rank of Colonel, even though no record exists on how he actually received that title. It is said he served as Captain, Major, and Colonel in the North Carolina Militia. In 1746 he was named High Sheriff of Chowan County. Col. John Alston died 2 December 1758 at his residence on Bennett’s Creek.



How did this chapter get his name?

Patty Lee (Mrs. John H.) Poe, founding regent, used Col. John Alston as her DAC ancestor. Her mother, Mrs. N. Bert Smith, used Alston as a supplemental ancestor. Over the years Patty stated she chose the name Col. John Alston to honor her mother. The Col. John Alston chapter was organized on the 22nd of March 1954. The chapter originally was formed just for Golden Acorn members (those aged 18-36).

Meet our Members: Susan Cole

*Susan has identified 11
DAC ancestors—so far*

Susan Cole is originally from Wilmington, Delaware, and is a lawyer living in Tulsa. In 1989, Susan graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science with Honors and a Minor in History. In 1993, she graduated with a Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law. Susan is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association. She has practiced law primarily in the areas of workers' compensation, personal injury, and social security disability.



a member of
nine lineage
societies.

In addition to
DAC, she is a
member of
Daughters of
the American
Revolution,
General
Society of
Mayflower

Descendants, Jamestown Society,
Colonial Dames XVII Century, United
States Daughters of 1812, Continental
Society Daughters of Indian Wars,
Arkansas Pioneers Association and
Dames of the Court of Honor. Susan has
held various offices and chairs at the
national, state and chapter levels. She
currently holds the offices of Second Vice
Regent, Oklahoma State Society
Daughters of the American Colonists;
Librarian of Colonel John Alston Chapter,
NSDAC; Counselor of the Oklahoma
Society of Mayflower Descendants and
Regent of Oklahoma Rose Chapter

Susan has been researching her family tree since 1992. She is proud to be twelfth generation born in America on her father's side and second generation on her mother's side. Susan has been a member of the Colonel John Alston Chapter, NSDAC since 1998. She is a former Regent of the Colonel John Alston Chapter and has held every office in the chapter except for Treasurer and Historian. Susan served NSDAC as the Great Plains Sectional Chair of the Golden Acorns Committee for six years. Susan is

From the Vault...

From 31 July 1970—

“We met for lunch in the home of Mrs. Donald Hatt. Hostesses were Mrs. William Kemper and Mrs. Henry Pruitt.”

“Mrs. John Poe, in absence of our treasurer, gave as our balance on hand August 1, 1970--\$29.46.”

And from 24 June 1988—

“It was suggested that given names be printed in our yearbooks.” The minutes printed from this meeting used members' first names.



Which chapter in the state of Oklahoma added the most new members at the last national board meeting? Hmm...
Welcome to FOUR new members!



Photo Contest for NSDAC!!

(from the national website)

“Announcing a fun contest for all members of NSCAC and NSDAC and prizes for both groups. The National President NSCAC, Cal Hepler, is having an exceptionally fun photo contest open to both groups as we want to find fun things to do this fall and winter. Mary Armstrong, NSDAC National President is joining in on the fun, and wants our members to come along as we begin our 100th year together.



Go to any historical park or spot and take a picture or two of any subject. It can be a flower, a mountain, a monument, a log cabin or nearby waterfall. Anything is acceptable, as long as it is in a historical location. Some states do not have colonial sites, so any history from our past is fine.

Two things are sent to the judge: 1) an original photo or two, 2) a description of the historical spot where the picture was taken.”

Deadline: April 1, 2021

Sent to: The judge, Cal Hepler, 1812 Greensboro Rd.ext., Lexington, NC 27295



Sarah Elizabeth Mitchell Guernsey, Founder of NSDAC, would definitely approve! (Founded 9 Dec 1920)

Enhance your Vocabulary!

“Grancestor”

Ancestors of an individual’s grandparents. The term likely originated in Newfoundland.

Speaking of...

What is NSCAC?

“Invite your children or grandchildren (or great-grands) to be a part of NSCAC (Children of the American Colonists). NSCAC is open to girls and boys. It is the junior section of the parent organizations, NSDAC and NSSAC, and it is one way they have to gain new members.

To join is a one-time \$40 fee and this gets them from age 0-22 with no dues from national ever. If you want to give this as a Christmas gift, write Mary Ann Hepler, NSCAC Registrar General, and go to the website (NSCAC.org) to see the application linking it to your papers and membership. These children are our future.” *(from the national website)*





Contact Becky Hold to subscribe to the Colonial Courier! Fall 2020 edition shown.

New members

Welcome to our new members—Donna Gantt, Sue Roth, Barbara Tiffée, and Rebecca Tiffée.

Update on Insignia

NSDAC has been



Informed by

Hamilton Jewelers that insignia prices have gone up. This is due to the rising cost of gold. For current prices, and to order any items, please order directly at [Hamilton Insignia](#)

Have news?

Send your photos and news to Jeanne Dexter at dexterjeanne@gmail.com for inclusion in the winter edition of the newsletter.

Regent says what?

Good Autumn!

I for one will be happy to see 2020 go. Recently I saw an article that talked about how individuals' perceptions of time have been altered by shutdowns and closures. Has anyone else had to stop and think what day it was?

One thing is certain—every day (no matter what day it is) allows us the possibility to do “good” in the name of DAC. Whether it’s researching an ancestor so his or her contributions to the formation of this nation can be recorded for future generations, or helping with a historical restoration project, it’s all good.

The Daughters of the American Colonists pride themselves on supporting education and historic restoration. With any luck, in the spring this chapter might embark on one or more historic restoration projects. Any act of restoration is good, and restoration leads to education about issues, causes, and history.

So it’s time to say goodbye to 2020. It’s definitely time to move on to a new year.

Hoping for the restoration of normalcy, health, and togetherness. See you (in person, I hope) in the new year.

Jeanne D.

Happy Holidays

There are five candy canes hidden in this newsletter. Did you find them all?



Snowperson hug!

Christmas in the Colonies

“From 1659 to 1681, showcasing one's holiday spirit in Boston could cost you a fine of as much as five shillings. That's right – Christmas used to be *illegal*. It's somewhat surprising, then, that the same puritanical minds also created the first American batch of egnog at Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement. (The word *nog* comes from the word *grog*; that is, any drink made with rum.) Christmas was so inconsequential in early America that after the Revolutionary War, Congress didn't even bother taking the day off to celebrate the holiday, deciding instead to hold its first session on Christmas Day, 1789. It took almost a century for Congress to proclaim it a federal holiday.” (from content.time.com)



17th century Santas brought good cheer, but were not associated with gift-giving or children

Did the Pilgrims celebrate Christmas?

No. The Pilgrims, or Separatists who established Plymouth Colony, did not celebrate Christmas because they could not find any literal references in the Bible that Jesus was born on December 25th (or any other specific date, for that matter).



George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River on the evening of 25 December 1776

Wishing you all the best this holiday season