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Welcome to the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution website!Established in 1891, the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution (MDAR) is composed of 41 active chapters and more than 2,400 members across the Commonwealth. Massachusetts DAR supports a wide range of initiatives in historic preservation, veterans' services, conservation, literacy and civic education. From preserving historic sites to celebrating American heritage, Massachusetts DAR members are united in their mission to honor the past and shape the future through meaningful community services. We invite you to learn more about DAR membership and join us as we volunteer in our local communities throughout Massachusetts!In DAR friendship and service, Mary TedescoMassachusetts State Regent The Daughters of the American Revolution, or DAR, is a lineage-based membership organization for the descendants of those who aided the fight for American independence. It was organized in 1890, when the Sons of the American Revolution refused entry to women. The DAR's motto is "God, Home, and Country." The society is dedicated to the historic preservation, education, and the promotion of national patriotism. DAR educational divisions are often involved in raising funds for local scholarships and educational awards, and work to preserve various historic properties and artifacts that foster patriotism. The DAR maintains chapters in all fifty of the United States as well as in the District of Columbia. There are also DAR chapters within Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Famous members have included Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, and Grandma Moses. The organization faced controversy on several occasions over its discriminatory practices. Marian Anderson, a renowned black singer, was refused permission to perform at Constitution Hall, leading to the resignation of Eleanor Roosevelt from the society. An apology was later made and she was welcomed at Constitution Hall for several concerts. Publicity regarding a black woman being denied membership in the DAR, despite satisfying the lineage requirements, finally led to the adoption of a statement in the organization's bylaws to bar discrimination "on the basis of race or creed," acknowledging the significant role played by those of all races and faiths in the founding of the United States, making it a unique nation with a special role in the world. Mission The Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR is a female volunteer organization aimed at promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and aiding America's future through the betterment of youth education. The organization raises funds to provide financial aid and educational scholarships to deserving and underprivileged students. Members of the organization also work toward the accurate preservation of history and various historical artifacts. The organization is home to one of the United States' premier genealogical libraries, and displays one of the largest collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts. The organization's annual national meeting, known as the Continental Congress, attracts more than 4,000 members to its Washington, DC headquarters each year. History The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on October 11, 1890, by Eugenia Washington, Mary Desha, Mary Lockwood, and Ellen Hardin, all self-supporting women devoted to the preservation of American independence. The organization was formed after the Sons of the American Revolution refused entry to women. DAR's founding mothers responded by establishing a female chapter on October 11th anniversary of the discovery of America. In its first year, more than 800 women joined the organization. The women's first project undertaken was to assist in the completion of the monument to Mary Washington, the mother of U.S. President George Washington. DAR contributions accounted for almost three quarters of the entire project funding. A Congressional Charter recognized the society on December 2, 1896. By 1909, construction was completed on the first of the society's three buildings, Washington, DC's Memorial Continental Hall. In 1910, the DAR began work to stimulate national patriotism by aiding immigrants in becoming legal citizens, later publishing the DAR Manual for Citizenship. Throughout the 1920s, the Daughters also maintained a controversial but strict opposition to the American pacifist movement which followed World War I; the organization also maintained a public anti-communist position throughout the Cold War. By 1923, construction was complete on the DAR administration building and by 1929, the renowned Constitution Hall was unveiled. In 1941, the society unveiled an extensive collection of historic manuscripts and imprints from the colonial and revolutionary periods entitled the Americana Collection. In 1973, Memorial Continental Hall was designated a national historic landmark, followed by Constitution Hall in 1985. By the late twentieth century, DAR membership totaled more than 180,000 with more than 3,000 local chapters, making it the largest women's patriotic hereditary society in existence. Since its founding, the organization has assisted in the preservation of various historic landmarks including the memorial of Jamestown, the marking of early pioneer trails, and the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. The society has also preserved and collected more than 33,000 decorative and fine arts objects housed in the DAR Museum in Washington, DC. Organization The headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution consists of three buildings housing the general divisions including historical, educational, and patriotic divisions. The DAR's historical division places an emphasis on the study of U.S. history and the preservation of Americana. 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Membership in the Daughters of the Revolution is open to women at least eighteen years of age who can prove lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving United States independence.[1] Acceptable ancestors can include signers of the United States Declaration of Independence, military veterans of the American Revolutionary War, including French or Spanish soldiers who aided the American cause, civil servants of state governments or members of the Continental Congress. Acceptable ancestors may also include signers of the Oaths of Allegiance, participants in the Boston Tea Party, and any doctors, nurses, ministers, and petitioners who aided the revolutionary cause. The DAR does not discriminate based on race or religion, and welcomes all women with a traceable bloodline to revolutionary ancestors. 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Annual donations to the society regularly exceed \$1 million dollars. The organization's national headquarters in Washington D.C. houses a premier genealogical library, an extensive collection of early American art, manuscripts and imprints, and Washington's largest concert venue, Constitution Hall. Constitution Hall is also home to the organization's annual convention. Designed by architect John Russell Pope, the hall seats approximately 4,000 people and is used for concerts, touring Broadway shows, high school graduations, and the Washington edition of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. For the 1971 opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Constitution Hall was also the host venue of the National Symphony Orchestra and the city's principal venue for touring classical musicians. Every U.S. president since Calvin Coolidge has attended at least one event at the theater. 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I realize that many people will not agree with me, but feeling as I do this seems to me the only proper procedure to follow. Very sincerely yours, Eleanor Roosevelt.[4] In later years, the DAR apologized to the singer and her manager, and welcomed Anderson to Constitution Hall on a number of occasions including a benefit concert for World War II relief in 1942.[5] In 1964, Anderson chose Constitution Hall as the place where she would launch her farewell American tour. On January 27, 2005, the DAR hosted a dedication ceremony of the Marian Anderson commemorative stamp with the U.S. Postal Service.[6] Ferguson controversy In March 1984, a new controversy erupted when Lena Lorraine Santos Ferguson said she had been denied membership in a Washington chapter of the DAR because she was black. In a March 12, 1984, Washington Post story,[7] reporter Ronald Kessler quoted Ferguson's two white sponsors, Margaret M. Johnston and Elizabeth E. Thompson, as saying that although Ferguson met the lineage requirements and could trace her ancestry to Jonah Jay, who helped the Revolutionary War effort as a member of a Friendship, Maine, town committee, fellow DAR members told her that Ferguson was not wanted because she was black. What caused a sensation was a quote from Sarah M. King, the president general of the DAR, who told Kessler that each of the DAR's more than 3,000 local chapters decides if it wishes to accept members. Being black is not only never been accepted into chapters. There are other reasons. Divorce, spite, neighbors' dislike. I would say being black is very far down the line... There are a lot of people who are troublemakers. You wouldn't want them in there because they could cause some problems. After those comments more publicity erupted, and the D.C. City Council threatened to revoke the DAR's real estate tax exemption. King acknowledged that Ferguson should have been admitted and said her application to join the DAR was handled "inappropriately." The DAR changed its bylaws to bar discrimination "on the basis of race or creed." King announced a resolution to recognize "the heroic contributions of black patriots in the American Revolution." As a result, not only was Ferguson, a retired school secretary, admitted to the DAR, she became chairman and founder of the D.C. DAR Scholarship Committee: "I wanted to honor my mother and father as well as my black and white heritage," Mrs. Ferguson told Kessler after being admitted. "And I want to encourage other black women to embrace their own rich history, because we're all Americans." Contemporary operations Today, the DAR is home to more than 168,000 members worldwide, donates more than 55,000 volunteer hours annually, and awards more than \$150,000 in educational scholarships and financial aid each year. Annual donations to the society regularly exceed \$1 million dollars. The organization's national headquarters in Washington D.C. houses a premier genealogical library, an extensive collection of early American art, manuscripts and imprints, and Washington's largest concert venue, Constitution Hall. Constitution Hall is also home to the organization's annual convention. Designed by architect John Russell Pope, the hall seats approximately 4,000 people and is used for concerts, touring Broadway shows, high school graduations, and the Washington edition of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. For the 1971 opening of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Constitution Hall was also the host venue of the National Symphony Orchestra and the city's principal venue for touring classical musicians. Every U.S. president since Calvin Coolidge has attended at least one event at the theater. Throughout its existence, the society has aided in the Spanish-American War, supporting more than 1,000 female nurses, World War I, supporting more than 3,000 French war orphans and World War II, providing more 19,000 soldiers with home care packages. The organization is also responsible for an extensive collection of annual publications. Noteworthy members Many well-known and accomplished women were DAR members.[8] These include: Notes 1 Daughters of the American Revolution, Become a Member. Retrieved October 10, 2006. 1 Kessler, Ronald, "Black Unable to Join Local DAR", Washington Post, 1984-03-12, pp. 1. Retrieved 2007-07-22. 1 DAR, Daughters, 1890-2004. Retrieved July 21, 2007. Bailey, Dianna. American Treasure: The Enduring Spirit of the DAR. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2007. ISBN 978158764413 DAR, African American and American Indian Patriots of the Revolutionary War. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2001. ISBN 1892237059 DAR, The DAR Patriot Index. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 2004. Donning Company Publishers. Preserving the American Spirit in the DAR Museum. Donning Company Publishers, 2006. ISBN 1587643562 Griener, Eric C. American Genealogical Research at the DAR. Washington, DC: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1997. ISBN 978-0960252893 All links retrieved January 25, 2024. Daughters of the American Revolution Official Website. 57 Many of our chapters names are from Patriots in their areas. From where the first shot was heard in Lexington to the shores of Plymouth, where the Pilgrims landed and meetings of the Continental Congress, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the American Civil War, and World War I, the DAR has a great story to tell. The DAR has chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Franklin Chapter, NSDAR Nantucket-Amos Mills Lucy Jackson Chapter, NSDAR Wellesley Athlboro Belle Allen Chapter, NSDAR Northampton Boston Tea Party Chapter, NSDAR Boston Brigadier General James Bickett-Old Newbury Chapter, NSDAR Haverhill Rockport Captain Joshua Gar, Jonathan Hatch Chapter, NSDAR Cape Cod Captain Job Knapp Chapter, NSDAR Douglas Captain John Joslin, Jr. Chapter, NSDAR Leominster Chief Justice Cushing Chapter, NSDAR Scituate Colonel John Robinson Chapter, NSDAR Westford Colonel Thomas Lothrop-Old Colony Chapter, NSDAR Hingham and Cohasset Colonel Timothy Bigelow Chapter, NSDAR Worcester Colonel Timothy Pickering Chapter, NSDAR Salem Colonel William Mc Intosh Chapter, NSDAR Needham Contentment Chapter, NSDAR Greenfield Deborah Sampson Chapter, NSDAR Brockton Deborah Wheelock Chapter, NSDAR Uxbridge Dorothy Quincy Hancock, NSDAR Quincy Faneuil Hall-Old State House Chapter, NSDAR Melrose First Resistance Chapter, NSDAR Great Barrington Framingham Chapter, NSDAR Framingham General Ebenezer Learned Chapter, NSDAR Oxford General Israel Putnam Chapter, NSDAR Danvers Hannah Goddard Chapter, NSDAR Brookline Hannah Whitrop Chapter, NSDAR Concord Joseph Coolidge Chapter, NSDAR Watertown Lexington Chapter, NSDAR Lexington Lydia Cobb-Quequechan Chapter, NSDAR Taunton Mansfield Chapter, NSDAR Mansfield Martha's Vineyard-Sea Coast Defense Chapter, NSDAR Edgartown Mercy Warren Chapter, NSDAR Springfield New Bedford Chapter, NSDAR New Bedford Old Concord Chapter, NSDAR Concord Parson Roby Chapter, NSDAR Saugus Paul Revere Chapter, NSDAR Boston Prudence Wright Chapter, NSDAR Peppercell Wayside Inn Chapter, NSDAR Sudbury and Wayland This article is about the women's organization. For the Grant Wood painting, see Daughters of Revolution. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (often abbreviated as DAR or NSDAR) is a lineage-based membership organization for the descendants of those who aided the fight for American independence. It was organized in 1890, when the Sons of the American Revolution refused entry to women. The DAR's motto is "God, Home, and Country." The society is dedicated to the historic preservation, education, and the promotion of national patriotism. DAR educational divisions are often involved in raising funds for local scholarships and educational awards, and work to preserve various historic properties and artifacts that foster patriotism. The DAR maintains chapters in all fifty of the United States as well as in the District of Columbia. There are also DAR chapters within Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Famous members have included Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, and Grandma Moses. The organization faced controversy on several occasions over its discriminatory practices. Marian Anderson, a renowned black singer, was refused permission to perform at Constitution Hall, leading to the resignation of Eleanor Roosevelt from the society. An apology was later made and she was welcomed at Constitution Hall for several concerts. Publicity regarding a black woman being denied membership in the DAR, despite satisfying the lineage requirements, finally led to the adoption of a statement in the organization's bylaws to bar discrimination "on the basis of race or creed," acknowledging the significant role played by those of all races and faiths in the founding of the United States, making it a unique nation with a special role in the world. Mission The Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR is a female volunteer organization aimed at promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and aiding America's future through the betterment of youth education. The organization raises funds to provide financial aid and educational scholarships to deserving and underprivileged students. Members of the organization also work toward the accurate preservation of history and various historical artifacts. The organization is home to one of the United States' premier genealogical libraries, and displays one of the largest collections of pre-industrial American decorative arts. The organization's annual national meeting, known as the Continental Congress, attracts more than 4,000 members to its Washington, DC headquarters each year. History The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded on October 11, 1890, by Eugenia Washington, Mary Desha, Mary Lockwood, and Ellen Hardin, all self-supporting women devoted to the preservation of American independence. The organization was formed after the Sons of the American Revolution refused entry to women. DAR's founding mothers responded by establishing a female chapter on October 11th anniversary of the discovery of America. In its first year, more than 800 women joined the organization. The women's first project undertaken was to assist in the completion of the monument to Mary Washington, the mother of U.S. President George Washington. DAR contributions accounted for almost three quarters of the entire project funding. A Congressional Charter recognized the society on December 2, 1896. By 1909, construction was completed on the first of the society's three buildings, Washington, DC's Memorial Continental Hall. In 1910, the DAR began work to stimulate national patriotism by aiding immigrants in becoming legal citizens, later publishing the DAR Manual for Citizenship. Throughout the 1920s, the Daughters also maintained a controversial but strict opposition to the American pacifist movement which followed World War I; the organization also maintained a public anti-communist position throughout the Cold War. By 1923, construction was complete on the DAR administration building and by 1929, the renowned Constitution Hall was unveiled. In 1941, the society unveiled an extensive collection of historic manuscripts and imprints from the colonial and revolutionary periods entitled the Americana Collection. In 1973, Memorial Continental Hall was designated a national historic landmark, followed by Constitution Hall in 1985. By the late twentieth century, DAR membership totaled more than 180,000 with more than 3,000 local chapters, making it the largest women's patriotic hereditary society in existence. Since its founding, the organization has assisted in the preservation of various historic landmarks including the memorial of Jamestown, the marking of early pioneer trails, and the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. The society has also preserved and collected more than 33,000 decorative and fine arts objects housed in the DAR Museum in Washington, DC. Organization The headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution consists of three buildings housing the general divisions including historical, educational, and patriotic divisions. The DAR's historical division places an emphasis on the study of U.S. history and the preservation of Americana. Its educational division provides scholarships and loans for privileged students, supports school efforts for underprivileged students, sponsors numerous essay contests, and offers scholarship awards. The DAR's patriotic division is responsible for the publication of DAR Magazine for the DAR National Defender. The President General and an executive board of eleven national officers lead the national society. Social policies are organized by a National Board of Management which meets six times each year at the Washington, D.C. headquarters. The Continental Congress, or the DAR's annual national meeting, attracts more than 4,000 members each year. Membership in the Daughters of the Revolution is open to women at least eighteen years of age who can prove lineal bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving United States independence.[1] Acceptable ancestors can include signers of the United States Declaration of Independence, military veterans of the American Revolutionary War, including French or Spanish soldiers who aided the American cause, civil servants of state governments or members of the Continental Congress. Acceptable ancestors may also include signers of the Oaths of Allegiance, participants in the Boston Tea Party, and any doctors, nurses, ministers, and petitioners who aided the revolutionary cause. The DAR does not discriminate based on race or religion, and welcomes all women with a traceable bloodline to revolutionary ancestors. 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