



MY PATRIOT AND ME

UNCOVERING THE HEART OF A HISTORIAN

Daughter's Family History Search Inspires Gift to DAR



CHRISTINE GENTRY WILL TELL YOU she was not interested in high school history and, as a first-year biology major at University of California, Irvine, she avoided history courses “like the plague.” But everything changed the summer she was 19.

“People are always looking for that missing thing in their lives. In the DAR, I have found it.”

—Christine Gentry

That summer, her family traveled from their home in California to her grandparents' 50th anniversary celebration in New York. “We stopped to try to find my grandfather's childhood home on Lake Superior. Whether we found the right house, I do not know. But it sparked an interest in finding my ancestors' birthplaces.”

Marrying a history major fanned the flame. A Vietnam War veteran, George Gentry serves as historian for his regiment. “Every trip we have ever taken has involved genealogical research, historical research or a combination thereof,” Christine says. Over 35 years, they have perused more than 25 historical libraries, from Burbank to Boston and as far as Berlin.

A 1980 stop at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., provided her first big find: Civil War pension records for

Sylvester Bohanan, grandfather of the Duluth ancestor whose home her family sought in 1967. Bohanan had lived in Maine. “I suddenly realized that there was a great possibility that I had ancestry going back to the Civil War in this country.” She connected with the DAR and began her search.

And while that particular search continues, names on the back of a family photo launched another. On a tip from a DAR member, she asked her library in Long Beach to secure a copy of *Harlem (City of New York) Its Origin and Early Annals* by James Riker. Reviewing pages of Dutch ancestors, she found her first two patriots: Cornelius Waldron and Arent Van Wormer of Albany County. She thought back to a favorite

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■ **Christine Gentry** (right) has visited more than 25 historical libraries to conduct genealogical research. But it was a book she checked out from her own library in Long Beach that helped her discover her patriot ancestors—Cornelius Waldron and Arent Van Wormer of New York.



EXTREME MAKEOVER

Florida State Society Revamps D Street Ramp And Surrounding Area

FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT. Donna Cullen had that in mind when, in 2011 as State Regent of Florida, she chose for the Florida State Society’s project the renovation of the D Street Ramp and surrounding area outside Constitution Hall.

The ramp, which is on the north side of Constitution Hall and leads to the five vestibule entrances, was in need of urgent repairs and upgrades with an estimated cost of \$140,000. “It seemed a lot of pressure to put on myself and the Florida Daughters when considering the numbers,” Mrs. Cullen says. “However, by doing the math, i.e., by dividing \$140,000 by about 9,000 members, it became workable. That’s about \$15 per member, or the cost of a movie.”

Florida Daughters ended up exceeding their goal and raising \$150,000, which is allowing them to renovate the NSDAR welcome and security center also.

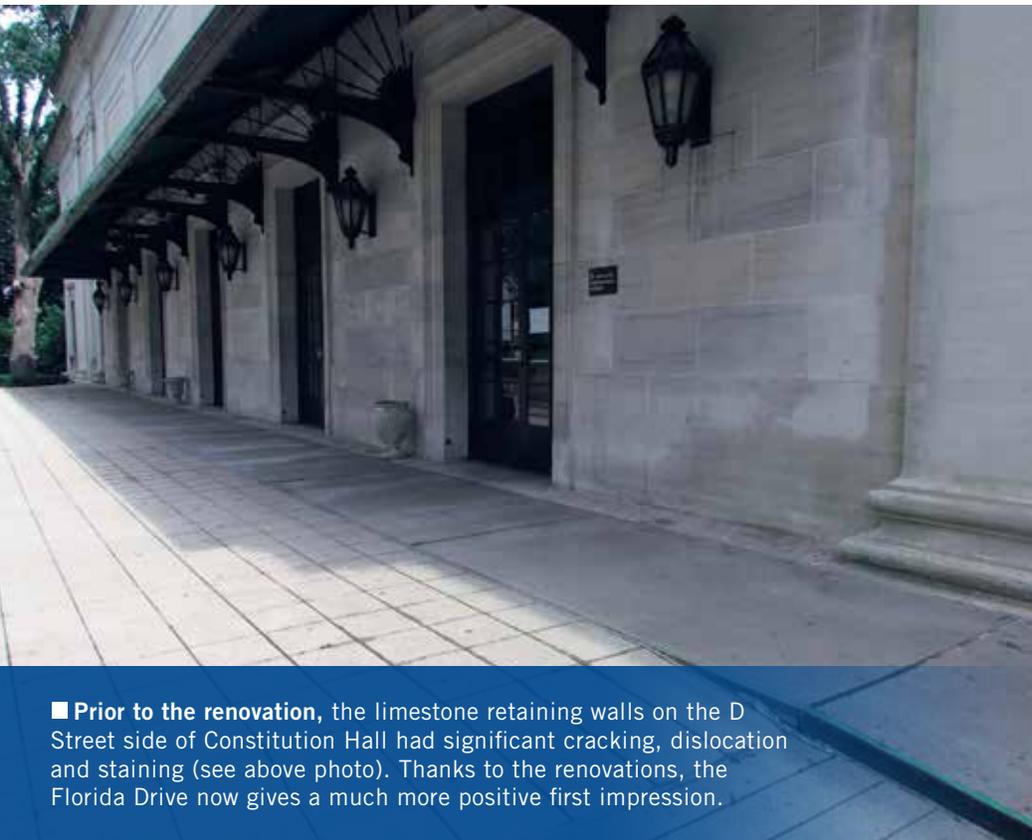
The updated ramp was unveiled at the 122nd Continental Congress and renamed

the Florida Drive to recognize the Florida Daughters’ contributions and dedication. Mrs. Cullen believes that the high level of participation is because the undertaking was one “all Florida Daughters could embrace and feel that they were part of the project. This was evidenced by one of Florida’s highest attendances at Continental Congress.”

We thank the Florida Daughters for the facelift they gave to a highly visible area of National Headquarters. For information on how your state can contribute to a project that preserves the historic buildings and grounds of the NSDAR, contact us today at (800) 449-1776.

“All Florida Daughters could embrace and feel that they were part of the project. This was evidenced by one of Florida’s highest attendances at Continental Congress.”

—Donna Cullen, Honorary State Regent, Florida



■ Prior to the renovation, the limestone retaining walls on the D Street side of Constitution Hall had significant cracking, dislocation and staining (see above photo). Thanks to the renovations, the Florida Drive now gives a much more positive first impression.



Call (800) 449-1776 to speak with us about new opportunities to support the DAR.

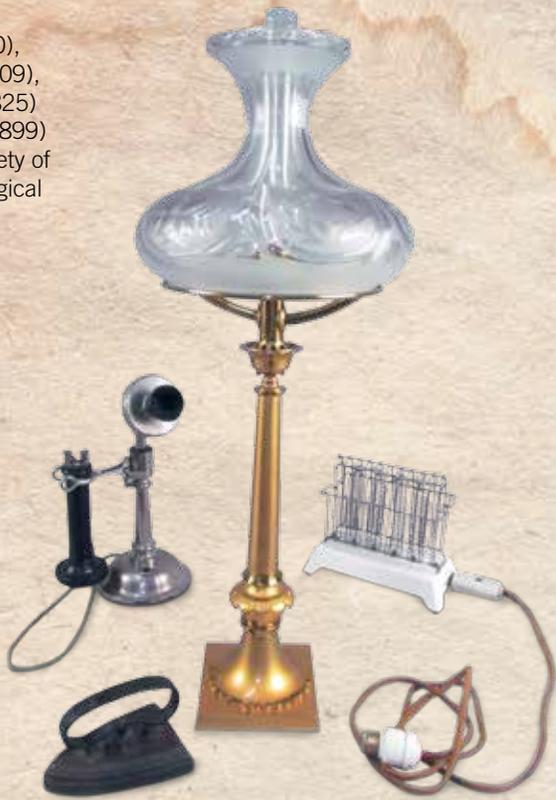


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■ This **sinumbra lamp** (1830–1840), **toaster** (1908–1909), **flatiron** (1795–1825) and **telephone** (1899) represent the variety of different technological items featured in the exhibit.



NEW EXHIBIT EXPLORES THE EVOLUTION OF HOME LIFE

“Creating the Ideal Home, 1800–1939: Comfort And Convenience in America” Opens October 4

THE COMFORTS AND CONVENIENCES THAT DEFINE MODERN LIFE did not come about overnight but evolved during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The newest DAR Museum exhibition examines how we moved from the fireplace and washing clothes by hand to the many conveniences we take for granted today, such as automated electric appliances, plumbing and central heating.

As American inventors patented all sorts of labor-saving devices, daily chores became easier—especially for the housewife. Lighting advanced from the flickering candle to a bright, gas-powered flame. Technology brought about ready entertainment and instant communication through the radio and telephone. And by the Roaring 20s, electrically powered devices like the light bulb and toaster defined the modern house.

More than 60 objects dating from the late 18th century to the early

20th century will be on exhibit.

Although these objects were, at the time, the latest devices that no one could live without, the exhibit poses an important question for us to consider: Do advancements and conveniences such as these actually save time, or do they create more work?

4 *Draw your conclusions about the convenience of modern life by visiting the exhibit, which opens **October 4, 2013, and is on display until August 30, 2014.***

Spotlight on The Americana Collection

Documents From Generations Past Offer Inspiring Truths to Visitors



The Americana Collection, created in 1940 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Society, brings together early American manuscripts and imprints that had been scattered among the holdings of the Library and the Museum. The collection has now grown to more than 4,000 items that span five centuries and focuses on Colonial America, the Revolutionary War era and the Early Republic.

To be inspired by the collection of letters, diaries, deeds, grants, books, sermons, musical scores and other items, we invite you to visit the Americana Collection, which is located in the Americana Room on the second floor of the NSDAR Administration Building. We also invite you to contact us today if you are interested in supporting these rare documents by becoming a “Friend of the Americana Collection.”



Time Is Running Out

Take Advantage of the IRA Charitable Rollover Today

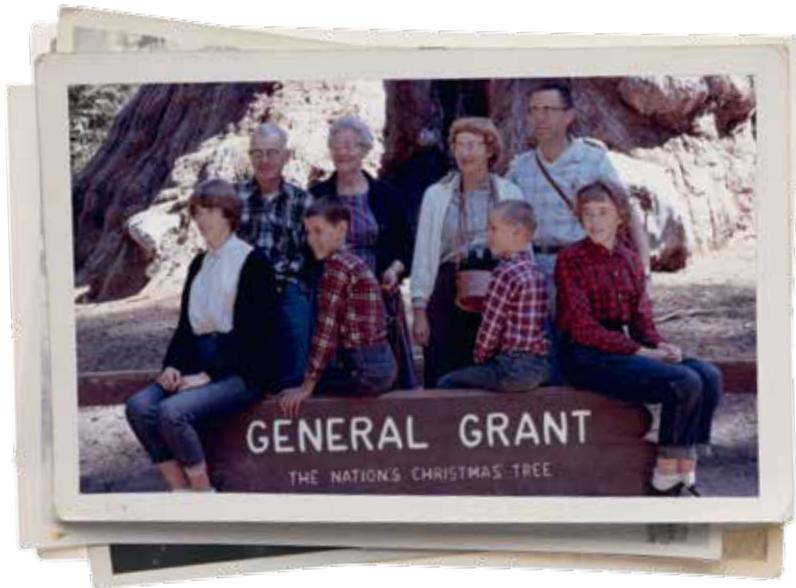
The IRA charitable rollover allows those 70½ or older to move up to \$100,000 from their IRA directly to a qualified charity such as NSDAR without having to pay income taxes on the money. This opportunity is set to expire on December 31, 2013. To make sure you do not miss this tax-wise opportunity, contact us today to see if you qualify.



Learn More At Your Convenience!



Interested in additional information about the IRA charitable rollover? Want to learn more about other ways you can save on taxes while supporting the DAR? Find all this and more at plannedgiving.dar.org, our new online resource for estate and charitable planning.



■ **Christine Gentry** (far right) with her family on the cross-country trip that ignited her passion for family history and genealogy research.

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book about settlers' struggles in New York's Mohawk Valley. "As it turns out, my patriots were in that region during the Revolutionary War."

Christine wants to ensure that future Daughters can experience the same excitement of discovering their heritage that she has, so the Gentrys have established two charitable gift annuities with the DAR and supported many of its projects.

"We are a nation of immigrants," Christine explains. "Other countries

developed from tribal groups or ethnic arrangements of one sort or another, but what ties our country together is that people valued the freedoms and responsibilities of creating a country where everyone could have the maximum ability to make something of themselves in life. That is what the DAR stands for.

"I feel very grounded here. It gives me a sense of where I belong in the whole scheme of things. People are always looking for that missing thing in their lives. In the DAR, I have found it."



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