



THE STAR DISPATCH

First Annual Edition

August 4, 2017

The official newsletter for
Founders Fellowship

Organized

August 4, 2016

at

Durham, North Carolina

by

Founder Carla Whitehurst Odom
(Mrs. Charles Robert Odom)

Motto

Ad Astri

Founders must found for leaders to lead. Every organization requires both to succeed!

Emblem

The Founders Fellowship emblem is the sterling star that serves to symbolize the creative energy utilized by founders when they engage their talent, intelligence, enthusiasm, attention to detail, goal setting, and willingness to assume risk taking for their groups. Founders

should inculcate their vision and mission to their organizations.

Greetings Fellow Founders,

Happy 1st Birthday to Founders Fellowship! Details about the Inaugural Luncheon held this past April and plans for the 2018 meeting are available in detail in this publication. Grateful appreciation is extended to the Founding Council of Fellows as well as all Charter Members for a splendid first meeting! Your encouragement and support has increased this organization's national recognition and image as well as adding to the membership and the ability to recognize additional groups. Since the Inaugural Edition of The Star Dispatch published on January 1, 2017, membership has grown to 44 with 14 new founders added to the roll. National lineage groups holding Founders Fellowship recognition have increased to 51 with 3 heritage support organizations.

An additional category of Re-Organizer (national) was recommended and has been instituted as an additional category to support Founders and Co-Founders. As pointed out by several persons in the know, often it is a greater challenge to revitalize a group in abeyance, locate and secure records, find members, determine former procedures and to adopt and fashion them into current workable plans than to found a new group and create all these concepts at the outset. Founders Fellowship salutes re-organizers who have gone the extra mile to salvage and revitalize premier organizations.

Please note the Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva is highlighted later in this issue. Future plans include featuring other national organizations in no particular order, so please help Founders Fellowship to give special recognition to your group by providing background and the official emblem where possible. Lady Godiva as it is better known is a huge success story which only verifies that where there is vision and enthusiasm members will flock to join!

The Founding Council of Fellows welcomes Honorary Vice President Charles Owen Johnson, Esq. His incredible list of founding, co-founding and re-organizing credits is featured in the following roster. Welcome aboard Owen! Pat Hugar is the newest member. She brings much enthusiasm and support to this body. Everyone except Pat should have a welcome letter and the sterling star membership pin. Please advise if the welcome packet has not arrived. Founding Marshall Alex Bannerman continues to prepare the beautiful membership certificates that feature the emblems of the organizations recognized.

Since the Inaugural Star Dispatch the Military Order of Agincourt, Descendants of Early Postmasters, Descendants of Colonial Mothers, and Order of Monarchs of Rheims have been organized, held meetings, added to their membership and have been officially recognized by Founders Fellowship. At least two more national level groups are "in the oven". Within the past year a few of our earliest members have been sought out and assisted several fledging groups. You know who you are. Thank you! It has been stated by the time one serves as a founder indeed one has the capacity to become a guiding star!

Please review the roster and advise of changes in points of contact. There remain a few established national groups with living originators unknown to this organization. All national founders

of hereditary groups are eligible for an invitation to Founders Fellowship. It is anticipated that one or more additional issues of The Star Dispatch will be available later in this administration.

Please share the mission of Founders Fellowship with persons who may express interest in founding a new hereditary group. If sought out Mrs. Sharon Stine will in turn contact and coordinate members who are well suited to be of assistance due to experience in similar eligibility/areas. Members will not be expected to assist potential founders. This outreach will be drawn from volunteers.

Please mark your calendars for the Founders Fellowship Assembly planned to be held at the site of the Hereditary Society Community Gala on Wednesday, April 11, 2018. The business meeting will conclude in time to attend the receiving line, social hour and the dinner to follow. Vice President Howard will recognize Founders Fellowship. Members and their guests for the event may be seated together as a group. Those who cannot remain for the entire evening are encouraged to attend the earlier business meeting. Details will be available later this year.

Happy Birthday Founders Fellowship,
Carla Whitehurst Odom

Founding Council of Fellows

2016 - 2018

Founder and President
Carla Lucille Whitehurst Odom
(Mrs. Charles Robert Odom)

Founding Vice President
Barry Christopher Howard

Founding Secretary
Jane Elizabeth Routt Power
(Mrs. John Michael Power)

Founding Treasurer
Maurene "Gayle" Mast Coan
(Mrs. Thomas Donald Coan, Jr.)

Founding Marshall
Alexander Bannerman

Founding Advisory Coordinator
Sharon Kaufelt Stine

Founding Historian
Lynn Forney Young
(Mrs. Steve Young)

Founding Chief of Protocol
DeEtte DuPree Nesbitt
(Mrs. Ernest V. Nesbitt)

Founding Chaplain
Patricia "Ann" Scott Williams Garner
(Mrs. Willie Donald)

Honorary Vice President
Charles Owen Johnson, Esq.

Founders Fellowship
2017 Inaugural Meeting
12 April 2017

The inaugural meeting of Founders Fellowship met on April 17, 2017, at 11:40 am in the George Washington Room of the Army and Navy Club, Washington, DC.

President Carla Odom called the meeting to order at 11:40 am. The invocation, during which a moment of silence was requested in memory of Thomas Donald Coan, was given by Chaplain Ann Garner; Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Advisory Coordinator Sharon Stine; the Motto was read by Charles Poland.

A warm welcome was extended by President Odom, followed by the introduction of the Founding Council of Fellows present:

Vice President - The Reverend Barry Christopher Howard

Secretary - Jane Routt Power

Advisory Coordinator - Sharon Stine

Chaplain - Ann Scott Williams Garner

Recognition of patrons was then extended to:

Treasurer, Gayle Mast Coan for her gift to open a checking account

Ann Scott Garner for the gift at each place of a stained glass star and stand

Wilma Wadsworth Halterman for her cash gift to aid in the production of tiles

Suzanna Etheridge Rawlins for the creation of the tiles

The stars, stands and tiles were keepsakes for each in attendance.

Members and Guests introduced by President Odom were Margaret “Peg” Christie, representing Wilma Halterman who is founder of the Hereditary Society Daughters of Founding Fathers, and LTC Charles Robert Odom who is in the process of forming a group. Members and guests not yet recognized were invited to introduce themselves.

President Odom then delivered remarks regarding the organization process of Founders Fellowship, which are below.

The meeting was recessed for lunch after a blessing by Chaplain Garner; the meeting was recalled to order at 12:35 pm.

President Odom noted the *Star Dispatch* was distributed online in January, 2017. A new edition is forthcoming and amendments or changes should be sent to Secretary Power.

The Marshall’s Report was read indicating 35 members; 55 certificates processed; 44 national organizations represented in the Fellowship.

The Treasurer's report was given by President Odom with a balance of \$5114.00. It was accepted and filed for review.

With no further business to come before the assembly, announcements followed:

The next Founders Fellowship Annual Assembly will be held April 11, 2018, at the site of the HSC meeting. The Fellowship will meet before the HSC reception and dinner.

The Chaplain was asked to close the meeting with a benediction. Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 1:00.

Jane Power
Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Thank you to those who encouraged me to initiate this Fellowship for Founders of National Hereditary organizations. The past eight months have provided a fantastic journey. The concept began when the 2016 Hereditary Fortnight concluded, but it took the better part of last Summer for it to season while sprinkled with prayers from the Chaplain and encouragement from several of you. Upon reflection it seemed strange to consider that there has never been an organization for persons who have founded groups to come together for fellowship. It is of special note there are from this organization now some individuals willing to stand ready one on one or in a team to offer assistance if sought out by potential new founders. National Leaders have been honored by the National Gavel Society for decades, but "Founders Must Found for Leaders to Lead".

Carla Odom, President
12 April 2017

Founders Fellowship Recognizes the Following Heritage Organizations
(listings in blue indicate organizations recognized since the last publication)

Alba (Order of)

**Antebellum Planters 1607 - 1861 (National Society Sons and Daughters of
Bench and Bar 1565 - 1861) (Sons and Daughters of Colonial and Antebellum)**

Blue and Gray (National Order of the)

Cape Cod and the Islands (Descendants of)

Children of 1812 (National Society)

Colonial Cavaliers (Order of Descendants of)

Colonial Mothers 1607 - 4 July 1776 (Descendants of)

Colonial New England (National Society Sons of)

Daughters of Founding Fathers of America (Hereditary Society of the)

Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, (Order of the)

Early Postmasters (Descendants of)

First Families of Augusta County

First Families of Connecticut, 1633-1662 (Order of)

First Families of Maine (Order of the)

First Families of Massachusetts (Hereditary Order of the)

First Families of Mississippi (Order of the)

First Families of New Hampshire (Order of the)

First Families of New York (Society of the)

First Families of Rhode Island and Province Plantations 1636-1647 (Order of the)

First Families of Vermont, 1609-1791 (Order of)

First Settlers of the Shenandoah Valley

First World War (Order of the)

Flagon and Trencher, Descendants of Early Tavern Keepers

Fossors (Descendants of)

Founders of North America (Order of the)

Guild of Saint Margaret of Scotland (National)

Jamestowne Society (by right of standalone title authorized by the Executive Council)

Justiciars (Order of the Descendants of the)

Knights of the Bath (Descendants of the)

Lady Godiva (Society of Descendants of)

Loyalists and Patriots of the American Revolution (Hereditary Order of the Descendants of the)

Merovingian Dynasty (The Order of)

Military Order of Agincourt

Monarchs of Rheims (Order of the)
Norman Conquest (Order of the)
Pilgrim William White Society (The)
Plymouth Hereditary Society
Province & Republic of West Florida 1763 - 1810 (Sons and Daughters of the)
Presidential Families of America
Presidents and First Ladies of America (Hereditary Order of the Families of the)
Registry of Infamous and Famous Relatives in American Families
Saints and Sinners (National Society of)
Second World War (Order of the)
Sheriffs & Constables of Colonial & Antebellum America (Descendants of)
Sons of the American Colonists (National Society)
Sovereigns of Great Britain (Order of American Cousins of the Present and Future)
Teachers (Hereditary Society of)
Textile Workers of America, Inc. (National Society Descendants of)
Virginia Founding Fathers (Sons and Daughters of)
Virginia Huguenot Society

Founders Fellowship Recognizes the Following Heritage Support Organizations

Hereditary Society Community
Texas Genealogical College
Cherry Blossom Buddies

Guidelines

Founders Fellowship was organized August 4, 2016, at Durham, North Carolina, by Mrs. Charles Robert Odom. The objectives are to afford the opportunity for national founders of hereditary organizations to engage in fellowship, and also to draw from the group a few volunteers who, if sought out, will serve to encourage and advise persons embarking on similar endeavors. An inquiring potential founder and volunteer members may interface in mutually agreeable circumstances so long as the forums are held apart from Council Meetings and Assemblies.

The Founders Fellowship Assembly will be held in the City of Washington, DC on the Wednesday before Patriots' Day Week unless changed by the Council of Fellows. Each member may be accompanied by one guest. When attending the Annual Assembly, members are requested to wear the Founders Fellowship star and no other insignia, with exception granted for Assemblies held in conjunction with formal occasions. The insignia should always be worn upon the left lapel or adjacent to a lady's heart upon her gown. It may also be worn to events of similar significance with other insignia while conforming to the stated placement. If an American Flag pin is worn the Founders Fellowship star shall be worn beneath it and parallel to any other leadership designations. Five blue spinels shall designate the Founding Council of Fellows insignia. No other star pins may carry the same designation

Business of the Founders Fellowship shall be conducted solely by the Council of Fellows that is authorized to meet in person, by telephone, Email, or U.S. Postal Service at the call of the President, or any five members of the Council. Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

The President shall not serve more than two consecutive terms consisting of four years, although if reappointed, he or she may lead in a later term. A retiring President shall appoint his or her successor who will select the next Council of Fellows. At the discretion of the incoming leader, all other appointees may serve unlimited terms as well as hold more than one office although each member may have but one vote.

Eligibility

Founders to include Co-Founders are individuals who initiated, or in certain circumstances reorganized national lineage or heritage support groups that have held an organizing/founding meeting followed by at least two annual meetings, if applicable. At the time of the invitation the organization founded should have a membership of at least forty persons not limited by residence of record. Inquiries are welcome and may be directed to the President. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the prospective founder's organization shall accompany the candidate's response to the invitation.

While not required, members are encouraged to bequeath their star insignia to Founders Fellowship. Members are permitted to select one Successor Member legatee candidate for each group they founded and registered with the Chaplain of Founders Fellowship. Upon the demise of a member, this officer shall recommend to the Council for its consideration the legatee so named. At the time the invitation is issued, the candidate shall hold membership in the respective organization the deceased member founded. If the legatee candidate is not invited for whatever reason, or fails to join the Founders Fellowship upon invitation to do so, another member of the respective organization shall be invited to serve as Successor Member.

When attending the Annual Assembly, the Successor Member is requested to wear the insignia of the organization they represent.

Life Membership Fees

The fee for Regular Life Membership is set at \$175.00, which includes a Founders Fellowship pin and one membership certificate. Application may also be submitted for recognition within Founding Fellowship listings and a supplemental certificate for each additional group the member founded in the amount of \$20.00 at the time of application, or \$28.00 if submitted at a later date. To avoid bank fees at the outset of the organization of Founders Fellowship, life membership checks should be made payable to the Treasurer:

Gayle Mast Coan with *Founders Fellowship* on the memo line.

Successor Member life membership fee is set at \$60.00, which includes a certificate and listings within Founders Fellowship publications.



FOUNDERS FELLOWSHIP'S STAR DISPATCH HIGHLIGHTS

SOCIETY OF DESCENDANTS OF LADY GODIVA

I well remember the day I thought about starting a society for the descendants for Lady Godiva. Actually, my inspiration was my granddaughter, Abaca Dowling. I have always shared my genealogy finds with family, and instilled in my daughters and granddaughters the importance of knowing something about their ancestors.

Abaca and I were going to a lineage society event, and I was sharing with her information about our royal ancestors. This was around 2003, and she already knew that our Gateway Ancestor Dannett Abney had very deep English roots with many royal connections. She had been impressed with all these notable royal connections. So, on this particular day, I told her I had just discovered that we also descended from Lady Godiva. She was even more impressed with this latest discovery than she was when I told her we descended from Charlemagne and many others. She said, "Really, you're kidding?" She thought I should start a society for descendants of Lady Godiva.

A number of years passed, and we skip to April 4, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Central in Washington, DC. Two of my roommates, Ann Williams, Sharon Stine and another friend Carla Odom had started a new society the year before. This was the Order of Descendants of the Justiciars. So, I decided to share my thoughts with Sharon and Ann, and told them how impressed my granddaughter was when I told her we descended from Lady Godiva. I asked them if they thought Lady Godiva descendants would be interested in joining a society for Lady Godiva descendants. They immediately said yes and asked to be co-founders. This became our organizing meeting. I suggested we should start asking around and see if anybody would be willing to join a new society for the descendants of Lady Godiva. Since I was in DC for three weeks, I started sharing my intentions with others, and they wanted to know how they could

become members, so I started a signup sheet. When I returned home I had many names and email addresses.

During the next several weeks, prospective members were contacting me and asking for an application. This was the time that I decided to get busy and get an application. I knew that Karen McClendon had prepared the application for ODJ. I contacted her and asked if she would do the same for our new society, SDLG (Society of Descendants of Lady Godiva), and she had our application completed right away. Maureen McGowan Singer finally agreed to be the registrar. Of course, there is much more to starting a new society than just getting the application and registrar; such as asking others to serve, writing bylaws, getting an EIN issued, setting up a bank account, submitting Articles of Incorporation to the state, becoming a 501c3 organization, just to name a few startup tasks. Designing the insignia or logo and finding a company to make it was fun. Carla Odom was instrumental in helping name period titles for our officers, including my title of Lady General.

On April 13, 2014, at the Army and Navy Club in Washington, DC, we had our Founding Meeting following the Order of the Descendants of the Justiciars Convocation Tea. Annelies Mouring, attorney and member, was instrumental in filing for our Articles of Incorporation and 501c3. Patsy Bass painted two Coats of Arms for our society and turned the designs into note cards to help earn money for our Lady Godiva Scholarship. Madeline Alworth has come up with ideas for decorations for all of the Lady Godiva Teas, and she is selling notecards with our insignia to help with the Lady Godiva Scholarship funding. Suzanne Bass and Melissa Fischer got The Lady Godiva Gazette off to a wonderful start. Alex Bannerman, Sharon Stine, and Mike Swisher tweaked our by-laws. We needed a web page, and Mark Young volunteered to design and maintain it. Ann Garner designed a tote bag with our insignia. There are others, too numerous to mention, who shared their talents and made critical contributions to help make our society be successful.

If you or someone you know, has royal ancestry, please help pass the word as this is how we gain members. Almost all sanctioned gateway ancestors qualify, but not all. Our Genealogist General Tracy Crocker is excellent in determining who qualifies for membership. Information about Lady Godiva and our society can be found on our website at <http://societyofdescendantsofladygodiva.com/>. The Godiva Gazettes and a list of proven gateway ancestors leading to Lady Godiva can also be found there.

We have come a long way, and I like to think big, but I could not have imagined SDLG becoming so successful in such a short time. I enjoy calling all members my cousins, since we all descend from one fine Lady.

Davine Roberts
Founding Lady General