



National Society  
Southern Dames of America:  
The First Fifty Years  
1962 ~ 2012

Compiled by  
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NSSDA

2013

## PREFACE

The notion to compile a 50-year history of the National Society Southern Dames of America came during the 2008-2010 term of National President Mrs. James O. Shearer (Nelly G.). This Dame was invited into the Executive Board Meeting to report on the condition of SDA archival material at the Atlanta History Center, having been assigned that task previously. The report was surprisingly excellent because our materials were found to be housed in acid-free file folders and boxes, and in as perfect order as was possible in organizing miscellaneous bits and pieces of old information. To be noted is that the materials are housed in a climate-controlled vault and have to be ordered ahead of time. Once the researcher receives the materials, the staff watches closely, and the researcher is allowed to touch only one page at a time, meaning that our materials are safe and secure. Once this glowingly happy report was given, the National President remarked that we needed to have a history compiled, and almost in unison, twelve pairs of eyes looked at this Dame. By magic, this Dame was appointed and on the way to compiling the 50-year history of our society because, after all, this Dame lived the closest to the Atlanta History Center (called Atlanta Historical Society Library prior to 1990).

The descriptions and terms used by this compiler were exactly those descriptions and terms used in the Assembly minutes, *Journals*, and Assembly programs found at the Atlanta History Center and in the materials sent to this compiler by Past National Presidents Nelly Shearer and Carolee McKinstry. My sincere thanks are extended to Nelly and Carolee for those materials which saved a lot of time and gasoline used in the 70-mile round trip to the Atlanta History Center. Nelly and Carolee's materials have been catalogued in excellent order and presented to the Atlanta History Center (April, 2013).

It should be noted that those years where the information seems lacking, it is because of the absence of Assembly minutes, *Journals*, and/or programs for that particular Assembly year.

This compiler set out to organize and present historical materials rather than creating a narrative. She gathered the facts found in society materials in chronological order without becoming overly descriptive and verbose and wading into fiction. There are dry parts and there are amusing parts.

It has been my honor and pleasure to compile this history. It was a labor of love and a time of enlightenment for this Dame. This Society history was presented for the first time at the 51<sup>st</sup> National Assembly in Gonzales, Texas, and is available on our SDA web site ([nssda.org](http://nssda.org)). Please enjoy National Society Southern Dames of America: The First Fifty Years 1962 ~ 2012.

Camille Redfern Baxter  
Georgia Society NSSDA Honorary State President & NSSDA National Chaplain  
2013

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Executive Board and members of the National Society Southern Dames of America would like to thank the staff of the Atlanta History Center for being wonderful custodians of our precious archival materials since 1982 when the Doris Walker Lyle Library was transferred to the Atlanta Historical Society Library. Your diligent care and preservation of our records greatly facilitated the compiling and completion of National Society Southern Dames of America: The First Fifty Years 1962-2012.

We were absolutely delighted to find that our materials are housed in acid-free archival folders and boxes which will preserve our records for many years to come. We were further delighted to observe first-hand that our records are secure under your watchful eye and will be available for many researchers in the future. We are pleased that our Doris Walker Lyle Library has grown to 166 books and will continue to grow. Most importantly, we are pleased that the original documents of incorporation and tax exemption are preserved and secure. With the 2013 presentation of additional materials, the Atlanta History Center will be the custodian of society records through 2012 ~ the first fifty years.

Thank you for your generous service to the National Society Southern Dames of America.

Camille Redfern Baxter, Compiler

National Society Southern Dames of America: The First Fifty Years 1962-2012

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY**

### **Richmond, Virginia ~ November, 1962**

The National Society Southern Dames of America was organized in Richmond, Virginia, November, 1962, by a group of ladies of Southern ancestry who realized the need for an organization which would bring other ladies of Southern ancestry together for the purpose of comparing interests and methods of work to become mutually helpful; encouraging ophthalmic research; studying political science and educational subjects through scholarships; supporting an eye program; and promoting benevolent, patriotic, educational and literary subjects, including the study of Southern history. The 1962 Hereditary Register of The United States of America lists the National Society Southern Dames of America. And thus began a rich and colorful history of service.

Officers selected were Mrs. Lee H. Lyle (Doris Walker) of Georgia, Organizing National President; Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Organizing National Secretary; and Mrs. R.B. Redwine of Alabama, Organizing National Treasurer. A date was set for the first Assembly. The Chartering Meeting was held in Clayton County, Georgia, February, 1963, with 150 members attending. The Chartering period was held open through June, 1963. By the Call to the Second Assembly in 1964, the list of chartering members numbered 324 in twenty-six states and the District of Columbia, more than doubling in one short year!

## **CHARTERING**

### **Clayton County ~ April 3, 1963**

The incorporators were Mrs. Olin S. Cofer, Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, Mrs. Lee H. Lyle, and Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley. The Secretary of State, State of Georgia, certified the Charter which was drawn up by Hodges & Oliver, Attorneys for the petitioners. On April 3, 1963, we became National Society Southern Dames of America, Incorporated, State of Georgia, County of Clayton. The first Proposed Bylaws were approved on April 22, 1963, at a Trustees Meeting. In a letter dated April 23, 1963, to Ben W. Fortson, Georgia Secretary of State, and signed by Mrs. Lee H. Lyle, Mrs. Lyle enclosed a check for \$1.00 for "fee for first registration of NSSDA, as specified on enclosed form F-38."

## **FIRST ASSEMBLY**

### **Atlanta, Georgia ~ June 3-6, 1963**

The First Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Biltmore Hotel, June 3-6, 1963, with one-hundred members attending. Hotel rates were \$6.50 for single and \$11.00 for double. Mrs. Lee H. Lyle of Georgia served as National President. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen (Kathryn Slaughter) was recognized as Honorary National President & Founder. Other officers included: Mrs. Henry Frost Chadeayne, National Vice President-at-Large; Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Secretary; Mrs. Richard B. Redwood, Treasurer; Mrs. Thomas W. Huey, Historian; and Mrs. George T. Winn, Chaplain. Dedication ceremonies were held in the Chapel of St. Marks Methodist Church on Peachtree Street on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> where an eloquent address was given by Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen. The Dedication of Southern Flags was held June 3<sup>rd</sup> on the

top of Stone Mountain, the world's largest piece of granite in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and was conducted by the National Vice President of States. Jefferson Davis was remembered on the occasion of his birthday. \$1,900.00 in donations was given. "This is My Country" was sung by Samuel Scarborough, accompanied by accordion. Speakers included Samuel J.T. Moore, Jr., distinguished lawyer of Richmond, Virginia; Marvin Griffin, Ex-Governor of Georgia; Dr. Noah Langdale, former President of Georgia State College; and Mrs. Bruce (Nancy) Schaefer, Director Georgia Department of Family & Children's Services, who emphasized the important role of women in shaping of America's history. After the Dedication, a tea hosted by the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at the Plantation House. The "Rise & Shine Breakfast" cost \$1.50; luncheon cost \$2.20, and dinner cost \$3.75, total \$7.45, tax and tip included. At breakfast, members were urged to alert themselves to the dangers in the Federal Government trend toward absolutism, as in the Supreme Court decision on school prayer. Mrs. Lyle warned of the Federal Government expanding into subject matter which can best be done by the states. The inevitable result will be deterioration of government in those areas which are exclusively Federal in their nature. Much was accomplished at this first Assembly. Ladies from each state gave suggestions for rules and procedures. We would have one meeting per year and two board meetings. Entrance fee would be \$25.00 with yearly dues of \$10.00. A committee was organized to work on the application form and coat of arms. An eye bank committee was organized and formulated procedures for members to donate or will their eyes. A membership committee resolved that membership would be "by invitation only" to those properly sponsored, of high caliber, aristocratic, and worthy dames of the South. The object was established that the society would bring into communication ladies of Southern ancestry in order that they may compare interests and methods of work and thereby become mutually helpful. The aim shall be benevolent, social, literary, artistic, cultural, and intellectual. The society is not to commit itself to any diverting or divisible entanglement through connection with other organizations. Bylaws were presented and adopted. Colors were established as Gold and white. The banner was formulated as having two end stripes of gold and a sketch of the Southern States outlined in blue with gold stitching on a background of white with the name lettered in the same. "This is My Country" was established as our song and members were encouraged to learn. The Coat of Arms would be a beautiful shield with appropriate wording. Certificates would bear coat of arms and member number. The flag salute was written: "I salute the flags of the Southern States of America, the emblems of their freedom and sovereignty." Eye Bank Program brochures were designed. A Memorial Book will be maintained whereby will be inscribed names of those whom we memorialize. Proposal to furnish a room in the Memorial Building at Stone Mountain as a chapel was enthusiastically accepted, details of which will be worked out by committee chaired by Mrs. Wittichen. New officers were installed by Mrs. Wittichen. The invitation to the Second Assembly was given by Tennessee and DC dames, with the possibility of Maryland and Virginia dames joining as hostesses.

The post-Assembly group of thirty traveled to Warm Springs, Georgia, and the Little White House, the Georgia home of the late President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt. A luncheon followed at Ida Cason Callaway Gardens.

The July 4, 1963, newsletter of Mrs. Lee H. Lyle (Doris) contains most of the wonderful information about the First Assembly.

Later that year, November 14-16, 1963, the Board of Management was held in Jacksonville, Florida, at the George Washington Hotel with 35 members representing seven states present. Hotel rooms cost \$6.50 for single and \$11.00 for double. Meals cost \$1.50, \$2.20, and \$3.75.

Recommendations from the Board included: 1) The society's first planned award in Literacy and Fine Arts be made every two years for \$1,000.00, offered to graduate students enrolled in Land Grant Colleges and Universities who are working for a doctorate in Political Science in Southern states. A brochure will be distributed to those Land Grant Colleges and Universities; 2) Approved placing \$6,500.00 at 4% interest in Savings Department of the Merchants National Bank of Mobile; 3) That a suitable holder be purchased to display the flags of the Southern States for use at National Assemblies. Dues remained at \$10.00 for Active, \$8.00 for Associates, and \$5.00 for Juniors. The SDA Coat of Arms and Insignia designs were approved. Members were reminded that SDA is one year old in November of 1964. It was announced that there are a limited number of tickets to the DAR Banquet at the Mayflower Hotel. Cost is \$8.00.

The February 1964 Newsletter noted that ribbons for national officers would be distributed at the Second Assembly. The beautiful new membership certificates will be ready. Membership pins would be ready soon. The state flags are ordered and will be ready for Assembly.

## **SECOND ASSEMBLY**

### **Washington, D.C. ~ April 23-27, 1964**

The Second National Assembly was held in the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., April 22-26, 1964. President Mrs. Lee H. Lyle presided with 77 delegates in attendance. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Honorary President & Founder. Other National Officers serving were Mrs. Henry F. Chadeayne, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Secretary; Mrs. Richard B. Redwood, Treasurer; Mrs. Thomas W. Huey, Historian; and Mrs. George T. Winn, Chaplain. Hotel rooms cost \$12.00 for single and \$18.00 for double plus 4% tax. Reports were given by all National Officers and Vice Presidents of States. The proposed bylaws were tabled. The Budget of \$4,750.00 was presented and accepted. Mrs. Wittichen gave the Eye Bank Program report and recommended that the following states each receive \$100.00: Maryland, Tennessee, Florida, Virginia and Missouri. Honorable Membership was conferred on Helen Keller. Committee Chairmen reported on insignia, Coat of Arms, American Heritage, film, and Literacy & Fine Arts. Mrs. Lyle, National President, reported that Charter membership closed June 30, 1963 with more than 300 members including 150 founding members. She offered challenges to increase membership. She reported that membership certificates were almost ready. The official insignia is "Plain 10K gold pin \$12.10, tax included. Jeweled (pearls) 14 KT gold \$27.50, tax included". The official ribbon in a "lovely shade of old gold" has been purchased and delivered. The flags and holder are on display during the Assembly. The SDA banner is completed and on display. Mrs. Wittichen has compiled a folder entitled "NSSDA & How to Become a Member" and it is available for distribution. The first Fine Arts award will be given at this Assembly. The SDA project is the abandoned chapel at Stone Mountain. Mrs. Chadeayne made a motion to contribute \$1,000.00 for the Thomas Jefferson Award in Political Science to a candidate working on a doctorate in the field of education. The message from the Citizenship Committee was to promote awareness of issues and candidates; American History; teaching the young; and expressing appreciation for public servants. Mrs. Wittichen, as Eye Bank Chairman, reported that the brochure and donation cards were adopted in 1962. Eye Banks have been added in Alabama, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and South Carolina. We will try to secure more donations. Mrs. Wittichen reported that a new technique has been developed for preservation of corneas in a glycerin solution whereby

transplants may now be done several years after cornea removal. The need for more cornea donations continues. Note cards were available “sold in 100 notes and envelopes at \$12.50, postage and tax included”. An invitation was issued to attend the Third Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee.

Highlights of the Assembly include the following: On Thursday, a seated brunch was held in the Senate Dining Room and cost \$3.00. Dames visited the Senate session afterward. A citation was conferred on Honorable Harry Flood Byrd in his Senate office by Mrs. Lee H. Lyle. A wreath was placed at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. On Friday, Dames attended the D.A.R. Luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel. A “magnificent” Reception and Tea were held at the Embassy of Iran. On Saturday, a boat trip was taken to Mt. Vernon and a wreath was placed at the tomb of George and Martha Washington. On Sunday, the Dames traveled by bus to the Naval Academy and historic Annapolis and attended church services with the midshipmen. Lunch was enjoyed at the Carvel House with Mrs. Taws, wife of Maryland Governor serving as hostess. Cost of the trip was \$6.00.

That Fall, the Board of Management was held in Charleston, South Carolina, September 25-29, 1964, at the Fort Sumter Hotel. Twenty-one members representing nine states attended. The Handbook was proposed. A \$420.00 expenditure for copper melatone fabric to cover apertures over the chapel organ was approved. Members attended dress parade at The Citadel and worshiped with the Cadets on Sunday. Members enjoyed historical tours of the city and harbor.

### **THIRD ASSEMBLY**

#### **Memphis, Tennessee ~ June 13-16, 1965**

The Third Assembly was held in Memphis, Tennessee, June 13-16, 1965, at the Hotel Peabody. Mrs. Lee H. Lyle, National President, presided with 48 members and 4 guests present. Georgia had the most delegates present. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Honorary President and Founder. Other National Officers included: Mrs. Henry F. Chadeayne, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Secretary; Mrs. Richard B. Redwood, Treasurer; Mrs. Thomas W. Huey, Historian; Mrs. George T. Winn, Chaplain; and Mrs. Hillman P. Rodgers, Parliamentarian. Hotel rooms cost \$6.50-\$15.00 for single and \$9.50-\$18.00 for double. Meals cost \$2.75, \$3.00, and \$5.00. Six departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Kathryn Slaughter Wittichen Scholarship to the Citadel was approved. A Budget of \$4,550.00 was presented and passed. The Treasurer reported \$2,358.54 in checking and \$10,468.33 in savings with a balance of \$12,826.87.

Highlights of the Assembly included the following: patio dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. Stovall; a showing of art and a tea at the home of Mrs. Lowell Hays; and a Pageant showcasing Southern Ladies who have served in the White House, portrayed by 14 selected S.D.A. members.

The Board of Management was held in Paducah, Kentucky, at the Hotel Irvin Cobb, October 31 – November 2, 1965. Hotel rooms cost \$6.75, \$7.25, and \$10.00. Meals cost \$1.75 and \$2.75. Eight states were represented. A wreath was placed at the tomb of Irvin S. Cobb, Humorist and Author. Members enjoyed a sightseeing trip. During a Tea at the Womans Club, the Mayor of Paducah presented Mrs. Lyle with a scroll naming her “Duchess of Paducah”. Mrs. Bert R. Smith presented Mrs. Wittichen, Mrs. Larsen and Mrs. Lyle commissions from the

Governor making them Kentucky Colonel. Members were offered a 9-country European Tour on the Queen Elizabeth, including three meals a day for a cost of \$1,057.00. Sixteen members must sign up to make the tour a reality.

### **FOURTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY New Orleans, Louisiana ~ June 12-15, 1966**

The Fourth Annual Assembly was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the Royal Orleans Hotel, June 12-15, 1966. Mrs. Lee H. Lyle, National President, presided. Fifty-two members attended with Georgia having the largest delegation of eighteen. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen, Honorary president and Founder, was recognized. Other National Officers serving were Mrs. Thomas W. Huey, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Herbert O. Vance, Secretary; Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley, Treasurer; Mrs. Pierre J. Becker, Historian; Mrs. A.M. Grimsley, Chaplain; and Mrs. Hilman P. Rodgers, Parliamentarian. Hotel rooms cost \$15.00 for single, \$22.00 for twins, and \$18.00 for double. Rooms were "all air-conditioned with complete bath and TV". Meals cost \$3.75, \$4.00, and \$6.00. Forty-seven dames attended. Mrs. Lyle reported thirty-five new and three associate members. Georgia had the most new members. Five departed dames were remembered. The National Treasurer reported a balance of \$4,333.86 in checking and \$12,000.00 in a certificate of deposit. Motion made and passed to establish a genealogical library honoring our first and outgoing President to be named Doris Walker Lyle Library, possibly in Atlanta. Members submitting the best family genealogy received the Elmer E. Jones Award and \$10.00 prize. Recommendations included the following: Discontinue the Fall Board of Management; Annual meeting to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June; \$5.00 of \$15.00 initiation fee be returned to the states; the two certificates of deposit at Trust Company of Georgia be divided into two accounts, \$9,000.00 in General Funds and \$3,000.00 in Scholarship Fund; our bonded Treasurer have safe deposit box to keep certificate of deposit certificates; Bylaws Revision Committee organized.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. Members enjoyed a 5-hour "air-conditioned motor ship" trip from Canal Street to the Mississippi River and the historic bayous, followed by a seated Mardi Gras Tea. The next day, members toured Old and New Orleans in a "air-conditioned bus" with a wreath laying at the statue of Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans at Jackson Square in the French Quarter. That evening, the Assembly opened with the Magnolia Banquet and an ophthalmology surgeon as speaker. The Louisiana Luncheon program was about Baroness Pantalba, one of New Orleans most fascinating women. At the Awards Banquet, members had hand-painted place cards. During the Assembly, special entertainment included Cajun songs and stories by Mrs. Rudolph M. Gary and southern songs by Mrs. Trig Woods. Mrs. Wittichen gave a citation to Miss Eleanor McMain.

### **FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Norfolk, Virginia ~ June 24-28, 1967**

The Fifth National Assembly was held in Norfolk, Virginia, at the Golden Triangle Motor Hotel, June 24-28, 1967. National President, Mrs. R. Grayson Yarrington presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers serving were Mrs. Thomas W. Huey, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Herbert O.



Vance, Secretary; Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley, Treasurer; Mrs. Pierre J. Becker, Historian; and Mrs. A.M. Grimsley, Chaplain. Hotel rooms cost \$11.00-\$13.00 for single and \$15.00-\$17.00 for double. Meals cost \$4.50, \$5.00, and \$10.50. Thirty-eight members were registered. Four departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Banquet speaker was Edward M. Kosyer who spoke on "The Eye Bank Program of the Virginia Lions Club: The Great Benefactor of Mankind". The Treasurer reported a balance of \$5,342.11 in checking; two savings accounts totaling \$9,000.00 and \$3,000.00, earning interest of \$771.96. The Membership Chairman reported twenty-nine new members. Mrs. Lyle moved to order 10 yards of 3" ribbon, 100 yards of 2 ½" and 2" ribbon. Motion seconded and carried. The Jacksonville Society organized with fourteen members. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Mrs. George Tullis, blind since age 14, who had flown from Baltimore with her seeing-eye dog, Victor. Mrs. Wittichen moved that SDA send telegram to Alabama Governor Lurleen Wallace who was in Houston, Texas, undergoing surgery. Motion seconded and carried. Mrs. Lyle proposed the National Officers Club and Founder Charter Club and it was accepted. The Presidents of the Officers Club and Founders Club were elected.

Highlights of the Assembly are as follows. Members enjoyed a special tour of Norfolk. There was a wreath laying at the tomb of General Douglas McArthur. Members enjoyed a tour of Williamsburg and lunch at the King's Arms Tavern. There was a special tour of the Norfolk harbor.

## **SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Atlanta, Georgia ~ June 22-25, 1968**

The Sixth National Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, June 22-25, 1968. Mrs. R. Grayson Yarrington, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers serving were Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Howard N. Axton, Secretary; Mrs. Peyton Brown Strobel, Treasurer; Mrs. McCall Henderson Imes, Historian; and Mrs. Willaford Ranson Leach, Chaplain. There were 102 registered delegates. The National Treasurer reported a balance of \$7,307.77 with \$630.68 in savings account interest. Mrs. Yarrington reported 36 new members and 4 new junior members. The Education Luncheon speaker was Dr. Edward Askren who spoke on the importance of early eye exams for children. Members were entertained by James Mankin, soprano. The age limit for Juniors was set at 35. The organizing meeting of the Founder Charter Club was held with Mrs. Lee H. Lyle presiding. Dues were set at \$1.00 per year with one meeting per year at the National Assembly. The winner of the Thomas Jefferson Political Science Scholarship was Gregory Embree of Tennessee.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. "Air conditioned buses" transported members on a tour of Atlanta and a wreath laying at the Henry Grady monument followed by a visit to the Georgia Governor's Mansion where members were welcomed by Governor Lester Maddox and his wife, the "charming" Virginia Maddox. At the "Salute to States" dinner, members dressed as outstanding women of their home states and gave narratives. An "air conditioned" bus trip and pilgrimage was taken to Stone Mountain where the First Assembly was held in 1963. Many rode the Sky Lift. Members enjoyed a guided bus tour of Stone Mountain Park and lunch at the Stone Mountain Inn. At the Opening Banquet, Governor Lester Maddox gave SDA members a warm welcome. Noah Langdale, Jr., President of Georgia State College was the speaker and National

Officers entered the "beautiful Empire Room" in a processional. Mrs. Willaford Ranson Leach presented a \$500.00 check to Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. Miss Helen Keller, Honorary Member, was memorialized at the Memorial Service. Mrs. Bernice McCullar was awarded a citation for her excellent history of Georgia. Mrs. Herbert O. Vance was elected as National President.

## **SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Jacksonville, Florida ~ June 21-23, 1969**

The Seventh National Assembly was held in Jacksonville, Florida, at the George Washington Hotel, June 21-23, 1969. Mrs. Herbert O. Vance, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers serving were as follows: Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon, Secretary; Mrs. William C. Galloway, Treasurer; Mrs. McCall Henderson Imes, Historian; and Mrs. Willaford Ransom Leach, Chaplain. Assembly registration was \$2.00. Meal prices included \$8.84, \$6.75, \$2.25, \$4.50, \$3.00, and \$5.25. Fifty-four attendees were registered. Ten departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Friday night dinner was held at the Alhambra Dinner Theater. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,108.32. Mrs. Lyle reported on Founders Club that there were 324 original members. Twenty-six new members were welcomed. The two Plenary Sessions conducted traditional business of giving membership awards and award for best family genealogy. Motion was made and passed to change the title Fine Arts to Creative Arts. The Southern Magnolia was chosen as society flower. Members voted to give \$1,000.00 to the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine.

Highlights included a tour of homes, tour of the Gator Bowl, tour of Jacksonville University campus, and the Cummer Gallery of Art. There was a musical program by Mrs. Pierre J. Becker playing and singing some of her own compositions including a song dedicated to Mrs. Lee H. Lyle. Members enjoyed a post-convention tour to St. Augustine, Florida, with dinner and a musical drama "Cross & Sword" of Spanish Florida by Paul Glenn.

## **EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Albuquerque, New Mexico ~ June 5-10, 1970**

The Eighth National Assembly was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the Sheraton Western Skies Hotel, June 5-10, 1970. Mrs. Herbert O. Vance, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers include: Mrs. Dan Plaster, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon, Secretary; Mrs. William C. Galloway, Treasurer; Mrs. Sydney C. Davis, Historian; and Mrs. Jonathan D. Hawkins, Chaplain. Meals cost \$2.85, \$3.00, \$5.50, and \$10.50. Thirty-nine members were registered. The Welcome Opening Banquet attendees were entertained by Gilbert Espinosa telling of "New Mexico, Land of Enchantment". The Treasurer reported \$1,476.40 in checking and \$23,159.67 in savings and CD's. A committee had been formed to study the feasibility of a Past National President's pin. The new National President's pin, valued at \$850.00, was worn for the first time by Mrs. Vance. Mr. Carroll Segar designed the pin and gave a contribution to the Education Fund from his share of the profit. \$400.00 was given to

Emory University in Atlanta for eye research. A recommendation was made to publish six *Journals* annually. A motion to accept member numbers 325 through 335 as Associate Charter Members was made and passed. The Alabama society was approved to be organized. The first Indian Scholarship was awarded to Albert Sando. Mrs. Jonathan Hawkins was elected National President.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. Members took a tram trip to the top of Sandier Mountain, covered with snow and ice, and enjoyed dinner there at the Summit House. A tea was held at the home of Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon. Members enjoyed an all-day sightseeing trip to Chimayo, Bandelier National Monument, Las Alamos, San Ildefonso Pueblo, winding up in Sante Fe for dinner at LaFonda. A second sightseeing and shopping trip to Old Town ended with a banquet at La Placita, where the hotel lined the walkways with lighted luminaries for the benefit of our members.

### **NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Charleston, South Carolina ~ June 12-16, 1971**

The Ninth National Assembly was held in Charleston, South Carolina, at the Frances Marion Hotel, June 12-16, 1971. Mrs. Jonathan D. Hawkins, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers attending were: Mrs. Dan Plaster, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon, Secretary; Mrs. William C. Galloway, Treasurer; Mrs. Sydney C Davis, Historian; Mrs. Slade H. Exley, Chaplain; and Miss Martha Shelton Davis, Parliamentarian. Meals cost \$3.15, \$4.25, and \$6.75. There were 58 members and 7 Junior Members registered. Seven departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$3,000.10 and \$24,138.74 in certificates of deposit and savings account. Mrs. Hawkins reported that there are 59 new members. Mrs. Willaford Ranson Leach gave \$10,000.00 to honor "the magnificent work the doctors are doing there" on condition that it is matched by any other gift of \$10,000.00 to Bascom Palmer Institute. A motion was made and passed to omit Resolutions from the organization. Members voted to go to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and suggested that members living in North Carolina organize a society. A recommendation was made to give a scholarship to a student at The Citadel and increase the amount to \$500.00. Cadet Tony E. Armstrong was awarded the Thomas Jefferson Political science scholarship. Mrs. Hawkins reported that the charter and bylaws were amended to satisfy requirements of the Federal government for tax exemption for a non-profit organization. Prior to 1970, SDA did not qualify for tax exemption. (A special meeting had been called March 27, 1971, at the Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, to amend the charter and bylaws. They were approved by the members and certified by the Secretary of State May 19, 1971, after a less than smooth process.) Members voted to restore the Fall Board of Management. The Executive Committee approved a request of the Incorporators to be allowed to pay the cost of a special pin to be designed for them. Pins were designed and made by Lowell Hayes & Sons Jewelers of Memphis. The Incorporators who still maintain active membership were Mrs. Lee H. Lyle, Mrs. Hiram E. Mozley, Mrs. Olin Cofer, and Mrs. J. Carl Hodges. A suggestion was made to publish the *Journal* bi-monthly.

Assembly highlights include the following. Members attended Chapel service at The Citadel with Col. Sidney R. Crumpton, Chaplain. A bus tour of Charleston and high tea at the Mills Hyatt House, followed by a tour of Middleton Gardens was very special. A musical program

was planned by the pages and directed by Mr. Richard Worrell. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Norvelle, Jr., hosted a party for the pages.

### **TENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Winston-Salem, North Carolina ~ June 10-13, 1972**

The Tenth National Assembly met in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at the Holiday Inn North, June 10-13, 1972. Mrs. Jonathan D. Hawkins, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers serving were: Mrs. Sydney C. Davis, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Eugene Turrentine, secretary; Mrs. William C. Galloway, Treasurer; Mrs. James S. Land, Historian; Mrs. Slade H. Exley, Chaplain; and Miss Martha Shelton Davis, Parliamentarian. Sixty-two attended. Meals cost \$3.50, \$3.65, \$4.85, and \$6.50. Four departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Evening speaker was George Wadlington who gave an illustrated lecture on Russia. The Treasurer reported \$3,039.34 in checking account and \$24,115.30 in certificates of deposit and savings account. Mrs. Hawkins reported 54 new members. Mrs. Willaford Ranson Leach gave over \$150,000.00 to the Bascom-Palmer Institute in Miami. The design of the Past President's pin was voted upon and approved. Mrs. Lee H. Lyle gave a commemorative plate "The White House of the Confederacy" to the Doris Walker Lyles Library which is housed in her home. The September 1971 *Journal* carried news that SDA has #237119262 to be used on any report to the Federal Government and excuses state societies from filing for tax exempt status. At the Board of Management, motion was made and passed to reduce number of *Journals* to four per year. The Missouri Society has re-activated. The Mississippi Society was organized. A new award was established whereby a \$10.00 prize would be awarded to the state society which contributed the most valuable efforts to the Eye Program. Mrs. Wittichen gave a talk on "The Founding" at the Founder-Charter Luncheon. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker was Vora Maud Smith, actor, writer, and composer who gave an original mono-drama entitled "Second Honeymoon". Mrs. Edgar Everhart, Jr., of Georgia, was elected National President.

Assembly highlights include the following items. Jon Denton, special aid to the President, gave reading at the National Officers Club Dinner entitled "I am an American". Members visited the Museum of Southern Architecture in Old Salem. A tour of Winston-Salem was followed by a reception at "Reynolda", former home of Richard J. Reynolds. The Tennessee Society hosted the reception in the Lord Wake Room. Members enjoyed a luncheon at Old Salem Tavern, built in 1784. The pages had a party. The Thomas Jefferson Political Science Scholarship was awarded to Cadet William Charles Weir of The Citadel. Mrs. Wittichen presented the Kathryn Slaughter Wittichen Ophthalmology Scholarship to the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University. An Aloha Party was given in the President's Suite.

### **ELEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Savannah, Georgia ~ June 15-18, 1973**

The Eleventh National Assembly was held in Savannah, Georgia, at the DeSoto-Hilton Hotel, June 15-18, 1973. Mrs. Edgar Everhart, Jr., National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. Other National Officers who

served were Mrs. Sydney C. Davis, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Eugene Turrentine, Secretary; Mrs. John G. Norvelle, Jr., Treasurer; Mrs. James S. Land, Historian; and Miss Ella Virginia Ross, Chaplain. Seventy-eight attended. Six departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Banquet speaker was Harris T. Remly, Supervisor of Civic Affairs for Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$4,983.91 and \$25,317.67 in savings account and certificate of deposit. The Membership Chairman reported 39 new members. The Doris Walker Lyle Library received seven books. The Thomas Jefferson Scholarship in Political Science awarded annually to outstanding student at The Citadel went to Lawrence Baggett of Valdosta, Georgia. Honorary Membership was bestowed upon Bernice Brown McCullar, a Georgia educator and historian who wrote columns in The Atlanta Journal. The Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami is one of sixteen centers in the United States researching methods for treating diabetes-associated disease with a laser which halts hemorrhaging in blood vessels in the inner eye caused by complications of diabetes. The laser was developed by an American, Charles Towns and a Russian scientist in 1964, and they won the Nobel Prize. The Board recommended that Mrs. Willaford Ransom Leach and Mrs. Nelson P. Sanford of West Palm Beach be made Life Members for their donations over \$50,000.00. The Eye Research Luncheon speaker was former Governor of Georgia, Marvin Griffin. The cost of the lunch was \$3.50. The Tennessee Society won an award for the most contributions to the Eye Program. Mrs. Leach and Mrs. Sanford received a special citation of Life Membership for gifts totaling \$2,500,000.00 and \$1,300,000.00, respectively, to the Bascom Palmer Institute. The assembly stood in tribute to the two ladies. Two Indian boys received scholarships to New Mexico State University and have "good records". A Vision and Discovery Program was given honoring Christopher Columbus and the founders of the Southern States. The song "Dixie" was sung at the Creative Arts Banquet.

Highlights of the Assembly included the following. Informal reception and "get together" was held each evening in the Hospitality Suite. A cruise on the Savannah River and inland waters was sponsored by the Georgia Society. A wreath was laid at the Oglethorpe Monument followed by lunch at the Pirate's House. Members enjoyed a tour of homes and historical points of interest in Savannah.

## **TWELFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Lake Buena Vista, Florida ~ June 6-9, 1974**

The Twelfth National Assembly was held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, at the Royal Inn, June 6-9, 1974. Mrs. Edgar Everhart, Jr., National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary Presidents. National Officers included Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Vice President at Large; Miss Margaret Ann Beard, Secretary; Mrs. John G. Norvelle, Jr., Treasurer; Miss Martha Shelton Davis, Historian; and Miss Ella Virginia Ross, Chaplain. Doris Walker Lyle, Membership Chairman reported 26 new members. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$5,096.74 in checking and \$30,030.64 in savings and certificates of deposit. Recommendation was made and passed to give Honorary Membership to Mrs. Douglas A. McArthur, a Tennessean, and Mrs. Cason Callaway. Recommendation was made that new pin be the size of a \$10.00 gold piece. The Handbook is being developed and is in the outline stage. The Doris Walker Lyle Library now has over 100 books. At the Eye Luncheon, report was made on "contact eye glasses" and the three types of lenses. Awards were given for logo

and seal design for N.S.S.D.A. Eight Creative Arts awards were given. The Indian Scholarship was given for the fourth year. Mrs. Dan Plaster was elected National President.

Highlights of the Assembly included a program presented by Miss Ella Ross and Mrs. George McDowell who traveled to Antarctica in 1973. Each evening, there was an informal reception in the penthouse hospitality room. The winner of the Thomas Jefferson Political Science Award was announced. Members enjoyed a trip to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World.

### **THIRTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Johnson City, Tennessee ~ June 5-7, 1975**

The Thirteenth National Assembly was held in Johnson City, Tennessee, at the Holiday Inn, June 5-7, 1975. Mrs. Dan Plaster, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. Allen D. O'Brien, Vice President at Large; Miss Margaret Ann Beard, Secretary; Mrs. Frank Dean, Treasurer; Miss Martha Shelton Davis, Historian; and Mrs. James E. Crouse, Chaplain. Forty-eight members and guests were registered. Meals cost \$4.20, \$6.50, \$7.50, and \$8.50. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$5,096.74 and \$30,030.64 in savings and certificates of deposit. The National Memorial Chairman had received \$1,485 in memorials. Eye Luncheon attendees were entertained by a Womens Barbershop Quartette. Eugene V. Price, Professor at Milligan College, spoke on "Stand up for America". Doris Walker Lyle reported twenty-eight new members. The Doris Walker Lyle Library received six books. Miss Ella Virginia Ross was awarded a citation for her outstanding achievements in Education. A special music program was presented by Mrs. William Starritt.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. A reception was held in the Hospitality Room each evening. A luncheon was held at the Country Club. A tour of the Johnson City Hall was enjoyed by members, along with a tour of Jonesboro and other historic spots.

### **FOURTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Albuquerque, New Mexico ~ June 16-19, 1976**

The Fourteenth National Assembly was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the Sheraton Old Town Inn, June 16-19, 1976. Mrs. Dan Plaster, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. S. Forrest Whitaker, Vice President at Large; Miss Mary Ruth Murray, Secretary; Mrs. Frank M. Dean, Treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon, Historian; and Mrs. James E. Crouse, Chaplain. The Political Science Award was announced by Lt. Col. Zeph Pate (Ret.). The Indian Hoop dance was performed by Mr. Perry Randall. Mrs. Frank Dean was elected National President.

Highlights of the Assembly include the following. The New Mexico Society gave an informal welcome reception. The Play Day included a trip to Santo Domingo Pueblo, the New Mexico Folk Art Museum and the Navajo Ceremonial Museum led by Mrs. Joseph Cata. A luncheon was held at Rancho Encantada with shopping on the Plaza afterward. The Bicentennial Banquet was held in the Rio Grande Room. Social Hour was held each evening at poolside.

## **FIFTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Biloxi, Mississippi ~ June 23-25, 1977**

The Fifteenth National Assembly was held in Biloxi, Mississippi, at the Buena Vista Hotel, June 23-25, 1977. Mrs. Frank M. Dean, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. S. Forrest Whitaker, Vice President at Large; Miss Mary Ruth Murray, Secretary; Mrs. Ann Bright Bradford, Treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence G. Dixon, Historian; and Mrs. William G. Wallace, Chaplain. Hotel rooms cost \$20.00 for single and \$25.00 for double. Meals cost \$5.50, \$7.35, and \$10.15.

Highlights of the Assembly include the following. A Reception was given with hostesses Mrs. Frank M. Dean, of the Alabama Society and Mrs. S. Forrest Whitaker. Tours were taken of many historic sites including Beauvoir, the home of Jefferson Davis. Members dined at many fine restaurants including Mary Mahoney's.

## **SIXTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Atlanta, Georgia ~ June 7-10, 1978**

The Sixteenth National Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the beautifully renovated Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel (site of the first meeting of N.S.S.D.A., June, 1963), June 7-10, 1978. Mrs. Frank M. Dean, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. Forrest N. Luthey, Vice President at Large; Miss Mary Ruth Murray, Secretary; Mrs. Ann Bright Branford, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Byford, Historian; and Mrs. William G. Wallace, Chaplain. Single room cost \$24.00; double room cost \$32.00. The theme of the Assembly was "Accent on Youth" and Junior Members enjoyed special seating. A \$500.00 gift was given to the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. The Membership, Education, Eye Program luncheon speaker was a lady who had received two cornea transplants. Mrs. William G. Wallace was elected National President.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. A reception was held in the parlor of the President's Suite hosted by Mrs. James E. Crouse. The suite was always filled with refreshments and always open to those who came for a visit. Members enjoyed a tour of Atlanta led by Mrs. Wittichen and laid a wreath at the replica of the Liberty Bell at the State Capitol. Members toured McElreath Hall and the Swan House (The Atlanta Historical Society Headquarters) and enjoyed lunch at the Swan Coach House, then toured the Tully Smith House. The Membership, Education and Eye Program Luncheon was held in the Empire Room. Members were entertained by the Li'l General Cloggers from Kennesaw, Georgia.

## **SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Tuscaloosa, Alabama ~ June 13-16, 1979**

The Seventeenth National Assembly was held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at the Stafford Inn, June 13-16, 1979. Mrs. William G. Wallace, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. Forrest N. Luthey, Vice President at Large; Miss Mary Ruth Murray, Secretary; Mrs. L.T.

Boatwright, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Byford, Historian; and Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, Chaplain. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$6,508.20. Membership Chairman, Doris Walker Lyle reported forty-eight new members: forty-four active, two juniors, and two associates. Frances Dean gave an interesting program on "How the Stars Fell on Alabama". Mr. Don Mize performed special music from "Oklahoma" and "Carousel". "*The Journal*" was published quarterly and called "*Quarterly Journal*". Motion made and passed to use non-profit mailing stamp. Colonel Sanders gave a \$200,000.00 donation to the Eye Foundation of Birmingham, Alabama.

Highlights of the Assembly include the following. Hotel rooms cost \$18.02 for single and \$24.38 for double. Meals cost \$4.00, \$5.00, \$7.00, \$7.50, and \$10.00. Members toured Tuscaloosa and the yacht club and enjoyed a luncheon at the University Club, cost \$10.00. There was a Tea at the University of Alabama President's Mansion. Mrs. William G. Wallace was honored at a reception. Post-assembly tour traveled to Mound State Monument, Moundville, AL, nationally recognized as most important pre-historic Indian settlement and ceremonial center in the South, and toured the Archaeological Museum, a reconstructed Indian village and temple restoration.

## **EIGHTEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Palm Beach, Florida ~ June 15-18, 1980**

The Eighteenth National Assembly was held in Palm Beach, Florida, at the Breakers Hotel, June 15-18, 1980. Mrs. William G. Wallace, National President, presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. Lex Jolley, Vice President at Large; Lt. Col. Zeph Pate (Ret.), Secretary; Mrs. L.T. Boatwright, Treasurer; Mrs. James A. Koonce, Historian; and Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, Chaplain. Single rooms cost \$36.00, double rooms cost \$40.00. Meals cost \$8.00, \$11.00, \$20.00, and \$21.00. The Memorial Service was conducted beautifully by Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, National Chaplain, at Bethesda By-The-Sea Episcopal Church. Mr. Martin McGlamercy served as soloist. "*The Journal*" was published quarterly and called "*Quarterly Journal*". A reception honoring "Martha Jo" (Mrs. William G. Wallace) and the Executive Council were held in the beautiful North B Room at the Breakers Hotel. The Fellowship Dinner followed with keynote speaker The Honorable Judge James R. Knott who spoke on Florida's history. The Education-Membership-Eye Research Luncheon was held in the Circle Dining Room. The Society of the Palm Beaches presented to John F. Kennedy Hospital a Fiber Optic Transilluminator Light and attachment to the Deathermany Unit with Dr. Emanuel Newmark accepting the gift. The outstanding speaker was J. Waite Fulton, Jr., D.D., who spoke on "The Case for the South". Mrs. Dan Plaster presided at The Creative Arts Banquet in the Starlight Room. The outstanding speaker was Watson B. Duncan, III. Entertainment was provided by Mr. Martin McGlamercy who played his bagpipe and then sang Scottish songs while playing the guitar.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. A tea was held on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Mrs. Willard Emerson, Jr., honoring Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen and all past National Presidents. McGlamercy served as soloist. Members enjoyed a tour of Flagler Museum and the Norton Art Gallery.



## **DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GAZEBO AT IVY GREEN** **Tuscumbia, Alabama ~ May 10, 1981**

On Sunday, May 10, 1981, the dedication ceremony for the Memorial Gazebo at Ivy Green, Helen Keller's ancestral home and birthplace was held in "The Clearing" in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Miss Keller had been an Honorary Member of NSSDA since the Second National Assembly held in Washington, DC, in 1964. Miss Keller's died on June 1, 1968. Mrs. Adylise Sherrod Grimsley, Founder Member of Fayette, Alabama, was also memorialized as she had suggested the name "Southern Dames" at the first meeting of the society. Mrs. Llewellyn T. Boatwright, Jr., National President unveiled the memorial marker. Contributions were made to aid in the maintenance of the gazebo.

## **NINETEENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Memphis, Tennessee ~ 1981**

The Nineteenth National Assembly was held in Memphis, Tennessee, at the Memphis Airport Hilton Inn, June 18-21, 1981. Mrs. Llewellyn T. Boatwright, Jr., National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, Jr., National Vice President at Large; Mrs. John H. Brown, National Secretary; Mrs. Albert H. Miller, National Treasurer; Mrs. Anita Parks Morrison, National Historian; and Mrs. John H. Curry, National Chaplain. The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$6,153.73 and \$45,000.00 in U.S. Treasury Bills and \$1,610.72 in the Savings Account. The Fellowship Banquet speaker's subject was "The Five Forts of Memphis". The Political Science Scholarship was awarded to Cadet Scott Bryn Umstead of The Citadel. The Creative Arts "Magnolia" Banquet included awards for oil painting, china painting, needlepoint, ceramics, music and handicrafts. "The Journal" was published quarterly and called "*Quarterly Journal*".

Highlights of the Assembly included a Tea at Davies Plantation, home of Mrs. Hillman Philip Rodgers.

## **TWENTIETH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Richmond, Virginia ~ June 17-21, 1982**

The Twentieth National Assembly was held in Richmond, Virginia, at the Hotel John Marshall, June 17-21, 1982. Mrs. Llewellyn T. Boatwright, Jr., National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized at founder and Honorary President. National Officers included Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, Jr., National Vice President at Large; Mrs. J.H. Brown, National Secretary; Mrs. Gordon Mortin, National Treasurer; Mrs. Anita Parks Morrison, National Historian; and Mrs. John H. Curry, National Chaplain. Single rooms cost \$39.00; double and twin rooms cost \$45.00. Meals cost \$5.00, \$7.25, \$8.00, \$10.00, and \$12.50. The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$5,375.71 and U.S. Treasury Notes balance of \$50,000.00. A Scholarship Fund was created from the Treasury Notes, and a committee was established to govern the fund which is to be kept separate from Treasurer's books. Founder Members enjoyed a reception in their honor at the Executive Mansion of Virginia. The Registrar reported thirty-six new members. Number 1000 was awarded to a New Mexico Dame. Cadet Thomas Oliver Mobley of The Citadel received the Thomas Jefferson Political Science

Scholarship. Two Honorary Presidents were memorialized: Doris Walker Lyle (January 6, 1982) and Emily Murray Vance (November 30, 1981). The Doris Walker Lyle Library was moved from the Lyle home to the home of Mrs. J. Carl Hodges for inventory and investigation of a permanent suitable repository. The collection consists of 166 books, archives, scrapbooks, and other memorabilia. After much research, Mrs. James E. Crouse, Georgia Society Historian and her committee decided to place the Doris Walker Lyle Library in the Atlanta Historical Society Library, located at 3101 Andrews Drive, N.W., Atlanta, GA. "*The Journal*" was published quarterly and called "*Quarterly Journal*". Past National President (2004-2006) Mrs. Sam Wescoat McKinstry (Carolee), National Number 1024, was approved for membership in 1982 and welcomed as a new member in the January 1983 "*Quarterly Journal*".

Highlights of the Assembly included a tour of Shirley Plantation, Berkeley Plantation and Sherwood Forrest, and on to Williamsburg and Carter's Grove. Members enjoyed a tour of metropolitan Richmond.

### **TWENTY-FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Atlanta, Georgia ~ June 15-18, 1983**

The Twenty-first National Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Tower Place Hotel, June 15-18, 1983. Mrs. James A. Koonce, National President, presided. National Officers included Mrs. J. Carl Hodges, National Vice President; Mrs. A.S. Waller, Jr., National Treasurer; Mrs. Jon H. Brown, National Secretary; Mrs. W. Saunders Gramling, National Historian; and Mrs. Norman Merkel, National Chaplain. Hotel rooms cost \$39.00. Meals cost \$4.00, \$6.00, \$9.00, and \$16.75. A new award, the Doris Walker Lyle Award for Society adding most new members was announced. A reception honoring Mrs. Koonce, National President was held. One luncheon celebrated the State of Georgia's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Highlights of the Assembly include a tour of the Cyclorama, Stone Mountain, lunch at the Stone Mountain Inn and a tour of the Plantation.

### **TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Jacksonville, Florida ~ June 20-23, 1984**

The Twenty-second National Assembly was held in Jacksonville, Florida, at the Sheraton Jacksonville Beach Resort Oceanfront, June 20-23, 1984. Mrs. James A. Koonce, National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and Honorary President. National Officers serving were Miss Mary Ruth Murray, National Vice-President-at-Large; Mrs. W. Sanders Gramling, National Secretary; Mrs. A.S. Waller, Jr., National Treasurer; Mrs. Roderick G. Turner, Jr., National Historian; and Mrs. Norman B. Merkel, National Chaplain. Florida Dames treated the Assembly to a Buffet Dinner the first night. A Champagne Brunch was given by the National President honoring all Past National Presidents and National Officers. Hotel rooms cost \$50.00 for single; \$55.00 for double. Meals cost \$7.00, \$8.50, \$12.50, and \$16.75. George Brock Magruder was the first recipient of the new "Col. and Mrs. Lee Harold Lyle Memorial Ophthalmology Young Medical Student Investigator Scholarship Fund" award.

Highlights of the Assembly were the Post-Assembly Historical Tour and lunch in St. Augustine and the Men's "Gator Breakfast" and tour. The Juniors and Pages gave an "Orange Blossom Breakfast".

## **TWENTY-THIRD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Johnson City, Tennessee ~ June 20-22, 1985**

The Twenty-third National Assembly was held in Johnson City, Tennessee, at the Holiday Inn Johnson City, June 20-22, 1985. Mrs. John Dean Milton, National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was recognized as Founder and National President. National Officers included Miss Mary Ruth Murray, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. W. Sanders Gramling, Secretary; Mrs. Arnold Briglia, National Treasurer; Mrs. Roderick Turner, Historian; Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, National Chaplain. Fifty-one members and guests were registered. Hotel rooms cost \$40.00 for single; \$46.00 for double. Meals cost \$6.50, \$8.50, \$10.00 and \$15.00. The Education ~ Eye Luncheon was held at the Johnson City Country Club with an ophthalmologist who spoke on causes of blindness, cataract surgery and new time-release eye drops for glaucoma. \$3,500.00 was given in scholarships with interest earned from the Scholarship Fund U.S. Treasury Note. Recommendation made and passed that the office of National Vice President be eliminated. Recommendation made and passed that Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen and Mrs. Lee Harold Lyle's names would appear on the National Assembly Programs. Thirty-two new members were reported by Membership Chairman, Florida having most new members. Two state societies, Louisiana and South Carolina, were reactivated. Past National President Mrs. Jack Loftin Martin (Fritzi), National Number 1111, was approved for membership as reported in the April-May 1985 "*Southern Dames of America Journal*".

Highlights of the Assembly included a tour to Rocky Mount, First Territorial Capital of the Southwest Territory 1790-1792.

## **TWENTY-FOURTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **San Antonio, Texas ~ June 26-29, 1986**

The Twenty-fourth National Assembly was held in San Antonio, Texas, at the St. Anthony Hotel, June 26-29, 1986. Mrs. John Dean Milton, National President presided. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen was remembered as Founder and National President. National Officers included Mrs. Anne B. Bradford, National Vice President; Mrs. John H. Rodgers, National Historian; Mrs. William C. Puckett, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. Walter H. Fowler, National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Llewellyn T. Boatwright, National Registrar; Mrs. Bobby Johnson, National Librarian (unable to attend); and Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, Jr., National Chaplain. Mrs. Richard M. Jones served as National Parliamentarian. Thirty-seven delegates and twelve guests were present. Registrar welcomed newly organized Louisiana Society with 54 Charter Members plus 30 new members from other states. Bylaws were completely revised, including publishing *The Journal* three times a year. Mrs. Arnold E. Briglia of Alabama was elected National President. The Eye Luncheon speaker told of the importance of "Eye Banking" and signing of "Donor Cards". Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen of Florida, National Number 1, was memorialized.

Highlights of the Assembly started with a tour of San Antonio. The Assembly was entertained by the Los Comodines Mariachi Band at the Creative Arts Banquet.

**TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**“SILVER JUBILEE”**  
**Birmingham, Alabama ~ June 25-27, 1987**

The Twenty-fifth National Assembly was held in Birmingham, Alabama, at the University Inn, June 25-27, 1987. Mrs. Arnold E. Briglia of Alabama, National President presided. Other National Officers included Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, Jr., National Vice President; Mrs. Anne Bright Bradford, National Chaplain; Mrs. Albert S. Waller, Jr., National Recording Secretary Pro-tem and National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Richard M. Jones, National Treasurer; Mrs. John H. Rodgers, National Registrar; Mrs. William O. Kerns, National Historian; and Mrs. Walter H. Fowler, National Librarian. Mrs. Jack L. Martin served as Parliamentarian. Thirty-one delegates and four guests were present. Motion made and passed to give one-time donation of \$100.00 to the Doris Walker Lyle Library of the Atlanta Historical Society. A second motion was made and passed that starting in 1988, an annual contribution of \$50.00 be given to the Library Archives at the Atlanta Historical Society. Mrs. Briglia had revised and reprinted brochure “How To Become A Member” and reprinted Bylaws, and both were ready for distribution. Oklahoma Society began steps to organize as did South Carolina and Virginia. Mrs. Jonathan Dean Hawkins, National President 1970-1972, was remembered at the Memorial Service. Treasurer reported checking account balance of \$4,361.47; Endowment Fund, \$50,638.00; and savings account \$8,151.84. Registrar reported fifty-five new members and four-hundred eighty-eight total members. At “The Eyes Have It” Eye Luncheon, the speaker told of new types of eye surgery. The “American Heritage” Banquet was held at The Club with its splendid views of Birmingham, and the program was on “Southern Architecture”, enhanced by a delightful slide presentation. Models wore clothing from the different fashion eras at the “Fashion in History Luncheon”. Cash awards and ribbons were presented to nineteen recipients at the Creative Arts Banquet.

**TWENTY-SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana ~ June 16-18, 1988**

The Twenty-sixth National Assembly was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, at Le Pavillon Hotel, June 16-18, 1988. Mrs. Arnold E. Briglia, National President presided. National Officers included Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, National Vice President; Mrs. Ann Bright Bradford, National Chaplain; Mrs. Albert S. Waller, Jr., National Recording Secretary Pro-tem and National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Richard M. Jones, National Treasurer; Mrs. John H. Rogers, National Registrar; Mrs. William O. Kearns, National Historian; Mrs. Walter H. Fowler, National Librarian. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$16,341.36 in checking and \$50,024.00 in the Endowment Fund. Mrs. Clark encouraged members to exercise their 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment right as women to vote. Mrs. Briglia had contacted J.E. Caldwell Jewelers regarding making SDA insignia and furnishing sashes. Motion made and passed to order 25 insignia.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. Members were entertained by a lady vocalist who accompanied herself on an autoharp, including a song she had written especially for the Southern Dames. Mrs. Briglia was presented the Key to the City and a certificate declaring her an Honorary Citizen of the City of New Orleans. The “WE SEE” Red, White and Blue Luncheon had as the program an ophthalmologist with a slide show. Mrs. Jonathan Dean Hawkins, Past National President 1970-1972, Founder and Charter Member #78 was remembered at the

Memorial Service, along with Mrs. James S. Fleming, Founder and Charter Member #146. Lady vocalists entertained at the Creative Arts Banquet. The Virginia Society was officially organized and represented by the Organizing President.

## **TWENTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Jackson, Mississippi ~ June 16-17, 1989**

The Twenty-seventh National Assembly met in Jackson, Mississippi, at the Radisson Walthall Hotel, June 16-17, 1989. Mrs. Jack L. Martin of Louisiana, National President presided. Other National Officers included Mrs. Anne B. Bradford, National Vice President; Mrs. Robert A. Burton, Jr., National Chaplain; Mrs. Marion E. Williams, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. Richard M. Jones, National Treasurer; Mrs. John H. Rodgers, National Registrar; Mrs. William H. Clark, National Historian; Mrs. Dupont Smith, National Librarian; and Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, Jr., National Parliamentarian. Hotel rooms cost \$40.00 for single or double. Meals cost \$5.00, \$8.00, \$13.50, and \$13.00. Nineteen voting members were present, and there was not a quorum. Fifty-five new members had been approved. The Eye Luncheon spoke of a personal reader manufactured by Xerox which would be expensive for an individual but helpful to a group of blind people. Memorialized were Martha Shelton Davis, Founder Charter Member of TN and May Ross McDowell, Charter Member. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$14,880.52 in the checking account and \$52,000.00 in the Endowment Fund. Mrs. Arnold E. Briglia reported that pins would be ready from J.E. Caldwell within two weeks, costing \$30.00. It was reported that the Maryland Society had its organizing meeting.

Highlights of the Assembly follow. Members were availed of the opportunity to visit the Mississippi State Capitol and Museum, the Governor's Mansion, City Hall, The Oaks, and the Manship House, all within walking distance of the hotel.

## **TWENTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Orlando, Florida ~ June 15-16, 1990**

The Twenty-eighth National Assembly met in Orlando, Florida, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, June 15-16, 1990. Mrs. Jack L. Martin of Louisiana, National President presided. Other National Officers included Mrs. Anne B. Bradford, National Vice President; Mrs. Robert A. Burton, Jr., National Chaplain; Mrs. Marion E. Williams, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. Shelby Spuhler, National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Richard M. Jones, National Treasurer; Mrs. John H. Rodgers, National Registrar; Mrs. William H. Clark, National Historian; Mrs. Dupont Smith, National Librarian; and Mrs. Frank C. Stewart, National Parliamentarian. Mrs. Frederick E. Leadbetter, Sr., (Ann Craft) was listed in the Summer 1990 *Journal* as a new member national number 1386. SDA Creative Arts competition is named for her. The speaker for the Opening Night Banquet spoke on Diabetic Retinopathy. Members were entertained by a pianist. Four Past National Presidents attended (Wallace, Boatwright, Koonce, and Briglia). The Eye Luncheon program was given by a seeing-eye dog trainer and all enjoyed seeing his Golden Retriever, Promise. The Treasurer reported a checking account balance of \$13,716.11; \$56,628.00 in the Endowment Fund; and \$14,967.54 in the savings account. The state societies gave a total of \$7,960.00 for eye research and eye banks.

## **TWENTY-NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Johnson City, Tennessee ~ June 19-21, 1991**

The Twenty-ninth National Assembly was held in Johnson City, Tennessee, at the Garden Plaza Hotel, June 19-21, 1991. Mrs. Richard M. Jones of Florida, National President presided. Other national officers included Mrs. Marion E. Williams, Vice President; Miss Mary Ruth Murray, Chaplain; Mrs. Shelby L. Spuler, Recording Secretary; Miss Elizabeth Peeler, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; Mrs. J.D. McGill, Historian; and Mrs. John H. Brown, Librarian. Hotel rooms cost \$55.00 plus \$6.05 tax for a double room. Thirty-seven members were registered. The Treasurer reported balance of \$12,850.95 in checking account; \$61,016.67 in Endowment Fund; and \$13,311.64 in savings account. The cost for printing and mailing two Journals in 1991 was \$961.10. Mrs. Catherine E.F. Brister, National number 1413 was listed as a New Member in the Winter 1991 *Journal*. The Opening Banquet enjoyed a musical program and remarks by a popular lecturer on Southern life and customs. The Eye Luncheon speaker, Dr. Shirley Chapman, was a blind professor of political science who brought her seeing-eye dog. She was the first blind woman mayor of an American city. Motion made and passed to dissolve Resolutions Committee. Motion made and passed to appoint a committee to compile a handbook. Thursday evening the assembly enjoyed a trip to Abingdon, VA, to attend a performance of "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the famed Barter Theater. Mrs. John K. Rose, Founder Member No. 28, of the Alabama Society was memorialized along with Mrs. Dan Plaster, Number 156, Past National President.

## **THIRTIETH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Sheffield, Alabama ~ June 18-21, 1992**

The Thirtieth National Assembly met in Sheffield, Alabama, at The Holiday Inn, June 18-21, 1992. Mrs. Jack Loftin Martin, Past National President presided due to the death of National President Mrs. Richard Morgan Jones on May 8, 1992. The Spring 1992 *Journal* reads: "According to Bylaws, National Secretary Mrs. Shelby L Spuler will preside at the opening of the Assembly, until the election of a temporary president." National Officers included Mrs. Anne Bright Bradford of Tennessee, President; Mrs. Shelby L. Spuhler, Vice President-at-Large; Mrs. Carolyn Newton Godwin, Second Vice President; Mrs. Ollie B. Fulenwider, Chaplain; Ms. Mary Elizabeth Kerby, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Stella Mae Stewart, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; Mrs. T. Jack Dorough, Historian; and Miss Elizabeth H. Peeler, Archivist. Thirty-eight members plus several husbands and guests were registered. Hotel rooms cost \$49.00, Single or Double. Meals cost \$5.75, \$6.50, \$11.00, and \$14.00. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$12,535.95 and \$61,016.67 in Endowment Fund. An Organizing President for North Carolina was appointed. The Opening Night speaker was a Sandra Elliot who was blinded in a skating accident at age 18 who now counsels both visually impaired individuals and their families. The Historian prepared a beautiful scrapbook for the biennium and placed it in the Atlanta Historical Society Archives. Bylaws changes were made creating Second Vice President; Vice President was restored to Vice-President-at-Large; and Librarian was re-titled Archivist. Deceased dames who were memorialized included Mrs. Richard M. Jones, Past National President 1990-1992; Mrs. Marion E. Williams, National Vice President; Mrs. S. Forrest Whitaker, Founder Member No. 24 of

Florida; and Mrs. Dupont Smith, Founder Member No. 31 of Georgia. The Georgia Society was reorganized in September, 1992, at Plaza Towers on Peachtree Street.

The 1992 Roster lists the following Charter Members: Mrs. William H. Byford #190 of AL; Mrs. J.D. Hunnicut #200 of FL; Miss Judith L. Marlowe #196 of TN; Mrs. H. Landis Mauldin #271 of NM; Mrs. P.L. Murphy #253 of FL; Miss Mary Ruth Murray #311 of FL; Mrs. Harry C. Scott #251 of TN; Mrs. Eugene Turrentine #159 of FL; Mrs. William G. Wallace #281 of FL; and Mrs. Florence D. Warbois #268 of NM. The 1992 Roster lists the following Founder Members: Mrs. H. Nelson Axton #49 of FL; Mrs. Lamar Crevasse #17 of FL; Mrs. James L. Ferman #15 of FL; Mrs. W. Sanders Gramling #60 of FL; Mrs. Robert E. Hendricks #107 of NM; Mrs. Lex Jolley #132 of GA; Mrs. Charles E. Jones #51 of FL; Mrs. John D. Milton #84 of FL; Mrs. T. Aubrey Morse #67 of FL; Mrs. Gordon K. Mortin #133 of GA; Mrs. John G. Norvell #81 of GA; Mrs. Hillman P. Rodgers #91 of TN; and Mrs. Frank E. Woodward #62 of FL.

Highlights of the Assembly included a trip to Helen Keller's home in Tuscomb, seeing the gazebo built by SDA in 1981, buffet on Ivy Green and the play "Miracle Worker" performed by locals in the amphitheater behind the house. Patty T. Johnson, niece of Helen Keller was on hand for the gathering. Everyone was especially glad to see the water pump which was the instrument used by Annie Sullivan to make Helen Keller realize that there was a means of communication. Replicas of the pump were given as favors.

### **THIRTY-FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Laurel, Maryland ~ June 24-26, 1993**

The Thirty-first National Assembly was held in Laurel, Maryland, at the Best Western Inn, June 24-26, 1993. Mrs. Anne Bright Bradford, National President presided. Other National Officers included Mrs. Shelby L. Spuhler, Vice President-at-Large; Mrs. Carolyn Newton Godwin, Second Vice President; Mrs. Ollie B. Fulenwider, Chaplain; Ms. Mary Elizabeth Kerby, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Stella Mae Stewart, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; Mrs. T. Jack Dorough, Historian; and Miss Elizabeth H. Peeler, Archivist. Hotel rooms cost \$55.00 for single, \$61.00 for double. Meals cost \$10.00, \$15.00, \$18.00, and \$26.00. Total registration was thirty. Motion made and passed to investigate the status of Insignia and report to 1994 Assembly. Motion made and passed that the first *Journal* after Assembly contains names of all State Officers. Bylaws were finished and printed and ready for distribution. New necrology and treasurer forms were devised. The Eye Luncheon speaker told of the importance of eye banks. Two bids for the 1994 Assembly were submitted, one by Georgia and one by Florida. Members were entertained by renditions of "Southern Songs" at the Creative Arts Banquet. A vote was taken and Georgia was the winner to be hostess for 1994 Assembly. Miss Elizabeth H. Peeler, Archivist, was memorialized as she had died March 20, 1993, before the National Assembly in June. Also memorialized were members Virginia Lee Jones Founder Member #51, Ellen Davies-Rogers Founder Member #91, and Emily Lucile Harris Byford Charter Member #190. The Opening Night Banquet speaker gave a visual tour of Historic Prince George's County, Maryland.

Mrs. Bradford noted in the spring 1993 *Journal* that SDA had grown from Member #1 to Member #1513 in thirty years.

## **THIRTY-SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Atlanta, Georgia ~ June 23-25, 1994**

The Thirty-second National Assembly was held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the Wyndham Garden Hotel Atlanta-Buckhead, June 23-25, 1994. Mrs. Anne Bradford, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. Shelby L. Spuhler, Vice President-at-Large; Mrs. Carolyn N. Godwin, Second Vice President; Mrs. Horton Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William Clark, Registrar; Mrs. Ollie Fulenwider, Chaplain; and Mrs. Jack Dorough, Historian. Thirty-one members were in attendance. Histories of state societies were given by State Presidents. The banquet speaker was Mrs. Betty Talmadge, former First Lady of Georgia, who spoke on her life as first lady and described the Gone With The Wind façade of Tara. Recommendation was made to renew Endowment Fund CD of \$50,000.00 and deposit \$21,000.00 interest into special account for eye-research grants. Treasurer reported balance of \$10,975.50 in checking account; \$71,079.29 in Endowment Fund; and \$12,081.43 in savings account. Proposed Budget item: Past President's pin: \$350.00. The Eye Luncheon speaker told of the benefits of donating eyes to eye banks. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker was Dr. G. Gil Watson, Senior Minister of Northside United Methodist Church and a wonderful humorist. Ethel H. Mozley, Founder and Charter Member #14 of SDA was memorialized. Mrs. William B. Rever, Jr., of Maryland (National President 2006-2008) became a new Member #1515

Highlights of the Assembly follow. Members toured Atlanta, then onto Kennesaw College and the Kennesaw Mountain National Battleground Park. Magnolia Brunch at the Jolly Lodge and a skit about Lex and LeoDelle Jolly's lives was enjoyed by all. Members toured the Wonderful World of Coke, Underground Atlanta, the Atlanta History Center, and the Swan House.

## **THIRTY-THIRD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**West Palm Beach, Florida ~ June 22-24, 1995**

The Thirty-third National Assembly was held in West Palm Beach, Florida, at the Palm Beach Airport Hilton Hotel, June 22-24, 1995. Mrs. Shelby L. Spuhler, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. Carolyn N. Godwin, Vice President at Large; Mrs. William H. Hutson, Second Vice President; Mrs. James C. Neerman, Recording Secretary; Mrs. David S. Hawkins, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Judson D. Gary, Treasurer; Mrs. Robert N. Riesser, Registrar; Mrs. Hugh M. McDonald, Chaplain; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, Historian; Mrs. John Hassler Brown, Archivist. Forty members were present. Hotel rooms cost \$65.00. Meals cost \$15.00, \$22.00, and \$26.00. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$12,286.62; \$50,000.00 CD; \$12,286.62 in savings and Endowment Fund interest of \$21,795.92. Two Mississippi Societies were organized. The National President reported that the membership roster "has been entered into the computer age using "D-Base" (whatever that is)". Mailing labels were computerized and ready to use in next *Journal*. Items for the National history book were requested. The SDA pin costs \$30.00. Mrs. Patricia Lee Murphy, Charter Member Number 235 and Mrs. Robert N. Riesser, National Registrar were memorialized. The Opening Night speaker told of "Women of the Palm Beaches". The Executive Board approved the selection of Mrs. Shelburne D. Wilson as the new National Registrar. The Eye Luncheon speaker was from Lighthouse for the Blind.

Highlight of the Assembly was a tour of the Flagler Museum.



## **THIRTY-FOURTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **San Antonio, Texas ~ June 20-22, 1996**

The Thirty-fourth National Assembly was held in San Antonio, Texas, at the Wyndham-San Antonio with a scenic view of the Texas Hill Country, June 20-22, 1996. Mrs. Shelby I. Spuhler, National President presided. Other National Officers included Mrs. Carolyn N. Godwin, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. William H. Hutson, National Second Vice President; Mrs. Hugh M. McDonald, National Chaplain; Mrs. James C. Neerman, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. David S. Hawkins, National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Judson D. Gary, National Treasurer; Mrs. Shelburne Wilson, National Registrar; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, National Historian; and Mrs. John Hassler Brown, National Archivist. Rooms cost \$81.00. Meals cost \$17.25, \$20.00, and \$22.50. Miss Mary Ruth Murray National Number 311 was memorialized. Motion made and passed that starting in 1998, the National Assembly is to be hosted alphabetically according to state: AL, 1998; FL, 1999; GA, 2000; LA, 2001; MD, 2002, etc. The Opening Banquet speaker was Col. Albert C. Metts. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking account of \$12,286.62; \$50,000.00 CD; and \$21,795.92 interest from CD. The Eye Luncheon speaker was from the Education Coordinator from the San Antonio Eye Bank. New National Officers were elected. The Creative Arts Banquet attendees were entertained by Marisol Flores Mexican Dancers.

Mrs. Godwin congratulated Mrs. John P. Harkins on becoming the Organizing and First President of the Mississippi Society in a letter dated August 23, 1996, after the 1996 Assembly. At the same time, she congratulated Mrs. Harmon A. Gardner for organizing the Vicksburg Society. Mississippi Society then chartered with one hundred ten members in November, 1996. The Virginia Society disbanded and forwarded their funds to the Ophthalmology Department at The University of Virginia.

Highlights of the Assembly included a tour of the Alamo and Riverwalk, a cruise on the River Boat and "Dutch Treat" dinner at LaMargarita Restaurant in the Mexican Market El Mercado.

## **THIRTY-FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Nashville, Tennessee ~ June 12-14, 1997**

The Thirty-fifth National Assembly was held in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Nashville Airport Marriott, June 12-14, 1997. Mrs. Carolyn N. Godwin, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. William H. Hutson, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. David S. Hawkins, National Second Vice President; Mrs. M.E. Haworth, Jr., National Chaplain; Mrs. John H. Rodgers, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. Judson D. Gary, National Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Shelburne Wilson, National Registrar; and Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, National Historian. Forty-three members registered. Past National Presidents Mrs. L.T. Boatwright 1980-1982 and Mrs. James A. Koonce 1982-1984 were memorialized. The Registrar reported ninety-eight new members. The Opening Dinner speaker's topic was Nashville History. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Dr. Dennis M. O'Day, Chairman Department of Ophthalmology Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Highlights of the Assembly were a bus tour of Nashville and a visit to the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson. Members also enjoyed the Capitol, Ryman Auditorium, Fort Nashborough, The Parthenon and The Upper Room Chapel.

**THIRTY-SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Birmingham, Alabama ~ June 11-13, 1998**

The Thirty-sixth National Assembly was held in Birmingham, Alabama, at The Mountain Brook Inn, June 11-13, 1998. Mrs. Carolyn N. Godwin, National President presided. Other national officers were Mrs. William H. Hutson, National Vice President at Large; Mrs. Davis S. Hawkins, National Second Vice President; Mrs. M.E. Haworth, Jr., National Chaplain; Mrs. Harris Smith, National Recording Secretary; Mrs. William H. Clark, National Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, National Treasurer; Mrs. Shelburne Wilson, National Registrar; and Mrs. Catherine F. Brister, National Historian. Hotel rooms cost \$94.35, tax included. Meals cost \$20.00, \$25.00, and \$26.00. Forty members and guests were registered.

Members enjoyed a pre-Assembly Tour of Arlington Antebellum Home.

**THIRTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Jacksonville, Florida ~ June 17-19, 1999**

The Thirty-seventh National Assembly met in Jacksonville, Florida, at the Holiday Inn Baymeadows-Jacksonville, June 17-19, 1999. Mrs. William H. Hutson, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. David S. Hawkins, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Catherine F. Brister, Second Vice president; Mrs. James C. Neerman, Chaplain; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Felix H. Jones, Jr., Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar, and Mrs. Cherie O. Reese, Historian. Hotel rooms cost \$64.00 plus tax. Meals cost \$9.00, \$11.00, \$18.50, and \$22.50. The pre-Assembly tour was to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens and then dinner at the University Club at River Place Tower, overlooking the St. Johns River, cost \$39.00. The Opening Evening program was "Freedom is Everybody's Business" by Harry Remley. The Eye Luncheon speaker told of "Moving from the old to the new in Methods for the Visual Impaired". The Creative Arts Banquet entertainment was a narrated program "Once a Southern Belle, Always a Southern Belle".

**THIRTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana ~ June 8-10, 2000**

The Thirty-eighth National Assembly met in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at the Holiday Inn-Baton Rouge Ease, June 8-10, 2000. Mrs. William H. Hutson, National President presided. Other national officers were Mrs. David S. Hawkins, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Catherine F. Brister, second Vice President; Mrs. James C. Neerman, Chaplain; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Felix H. Jones, Jr., Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; and Mrs. Cherie O. Reese, Historian. Mrs. Hutson remarked in the January 2000 *Journal* "At last the year 2000 has arrived and we had lights, water, heat, no planes fell from the skies, and no terrorists....Now we can get on with our lives." Hotel rooms cost \$59.00. Meals cost \$6.95, \$7.95, \$15.95, and \$18.75. The pre-Assembly tour was to Nottoway Plantation, an American castle completed in 1859 on the National Register of Historic Places and dinner afterward. The Louisiana Luncheon program was "The Closing of Young-Sanders Center in Morgan City". Mrs. Shelby L. Spuhler, Past National

President 1994-1996 was memorialized. The Opening Evening entertainment was a musical program by the Baton Rouge Music Club Chorus. The Treasurer reported a Certificate of Deposit balance of \$65,000.00; \$15,261.81 in checking; and \$4,579.21 in the Endowment Fund. The Registrar reported forty new members. The Eye Luncheon speaker related "Potential Treatment of Macular Degeneration". Item #11 of the Assembly Rules reads: "There shall be **NO SMOKING** during the plenary sessions and meals." Mrs. Hutson welcomed the North Carolina Society into SDA.

### **THIRTY-NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Baltimore, Maryland ~ June 14-16, 2001**

The Thirty-ninth National Assembly was held in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Pikesville Hilton Hotel, June 14-16, 2001. Mrs. David S. Hawkins, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. Catherine F. Brister, Vice President at Large; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, Second Vice President; Mrs. Felix H. Jones, Chaplain; Mrs. J.V. Mestemacher, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Muriel P. Piver, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; and Mrs. Eugene E. Tibbs, Historian. Thirty-seven members were registered. The pre-Assembly tour was to historic Hampton Estate and dinner at home of Mrs. William B. Rever, Maryland State President. Mrs. James R. Shearer was appointed National Treasurer upon the death of Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers. The Treasurer reported \$15,261.81 in checking; \$65,000.00 in a CD; \$15,261.81 in savings account; and \$8,386.49 in Endowment Fund interest account. The Maryland Luncheon speaker, Alan Walden, Chairman of the "Patriots of Fort McHenry" presented a program on "Fort McHenry". Patricia A. Murphy, Executive Director Medical Eye Banks of Maryland and Washington was the speaker at the Opening Night Banquet. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Albert D. Jun, Wilmer Eye Institute Johns Hopkins Hospital who spoke on "Cataract Surgery" and presented slides. Fourteen new members were welcomed.

### **FORTIETH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Jackson, Mississippi ~ June 14-16, 2002**

The Fortieth National Assembly was held in Jackson, Mississippi, at the Edison Walthall Hotel, June 14-16, 2002. Mrs. David S. Hawkins, National President presided. Other National Officers were Mrs. Catherine F. Brister, First Vice President; Mrs. Sam W. McKinstry, Second Vice President; Mrs. Felix H. Jones, Chaplain; Mrs. J.V. Mestemacher, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Muriel P. Piver, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Horton A. Rodgers, Treasurer; Mrs. William H. Clark, Registrar; and Mrs. Eugene E. Tibbs, Historian. Fifty-four members and seven guests attended. Hotel rooms cost \$75.00 for single and \$85.00 for double. Meals cost \$11.00, \$15.00, \$21.00, and \$25.00. Members enjoyed a musical program during the Opening Banquet. \$10,140.00 was given toward ophthalmic projects. A seeing-eye dog trainer spoke at the Eye Luncheon. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker, Susan Ford, spoke on the process of glass blowing. Thirteen new members were welcomed. The New Mexico Society was re-organized by Mrs. Philip Strober. A Memorial Service was held for sixteen departed dames. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$11,273.74 in checking account.

## **FORTY-FIRST NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Wilmington, North Carolina ~ June 12-14, 2003**

The Forty-first National Assembly was held in Wilmington, North Carolina, at the Wilmingtonian Hotel in the Historic District, June 12-14, 2003. Catherine Ford Brister presided. Frances Hawkins was honored as Immediate National President. Other National Officers were Carolee P. McKinstry, First Vice President; Lyde Jones, Second Vice President; Eloise D. Lewis, Chaplain; Martha P. Tibbs, Recording Secretary; Mary F. Rever, Corresponding Secretary; Nelly Shearer, Treasurer, Julia V. Mestemacher, Registrar; and Ann Leadbetter, Historian. Hotel rooms cost \$115.00 for single and \$229.00 for double. Meals cost \$11.50, \$20.00, \$26.00, and \$28.00. Fifty-three members and seven guests attended. Sixteen deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service, including Carolyn Newton Godwin, Past National President 1996-1998. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$17,197.77 in checking and a \$65,000.00 Certificate of Deposit. Forty-three new members were welcomed, including Robin Redfearn Towns, National President 2012-2014. A canvas tote bag, dark blue with cream colored handles, was offered at \$15.00. The 2002 Bylaws Booklet was published by Carolee P. McKinstry. Members enjoyed a trolley ride from the Wilmingtonian to the Cape Fear River where they boarded the paddleboat Henrietta III for a dinner cruise. Wilmington Mayor Harper Peterson entertained members at the North Carolina Luncheon. The Opening Banquet speaker was B. Stanley Jenkins who told how events and geography made “Wilmingtonians, the Way They Are”. At the Eye Luncheon, it was reported that \$9,223.00 was given toward ophthalmic research. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker was Charles Adams who spoke on “The Road from Cape Fear to New Bern” at the time North Carolina was the home of Royal Governor William Tryon.

## **FORTY-SECOND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Memphis, Tennessee ~ June 10-12, 2004**

The Forty-First National Assembly was held in Memphis, Tennessee, at the Ridgeway Inn, June 10-June 14, 2004. National President Catherine Ford Brister presided. Frances Hawkins was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Carolee P. McKinstry, First Vice President; Lyde B. Jones, Second Vice President; Eloise D. Lewis, Chaplain; Martha P. Tibbs, Recording Secretary; Mary F. Rever, Corresponding Secretary; Nelly Shearer, Treasurer; Julia V. Mestemacher, Registrar; Ann Ledbetter, Historian. Hotel rooms cost \$80.00. Meals cost \$16.00, \$17.00, \$19.00, \$28.00, and \$34.00. Twenty-eight members and sixteen guests attended. Members and guests enjoyed a tour of the University of Tennessee Hamilton Eye Institute Research Center and dinner afterward at Paulette’s Restaurant. The Tennessee Luncheon speaker was Louise Leffler, Memphis Society President and an octogenarian, who spoke on “Eight Decades of Memphis Memories”. Fifteen deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Banquet speaker was Karen Hellums who spoke on “Elmwood Women”, the illustrious women in Elmwood Cemetery. The First Vice President sent Bylaws to Robin Towns, MD Society, who was re-organizing Georgia Society. Other State Societies organizing included Missouri, New Mexico, and Kentucky. The National Registrar reported twenty-six new members. The National Treasurer reported a Certificate of Deposit of \$65,000.00 at 3% interest; \$8,305.10 in regular checking; and \$15,200.67 in Endowment Account. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Anne Hughes Sayles who spoke on “The

Story of Senses II & the Art of Touch”, an invitational art show for the blind and visually handicapped. The Creative Arts Banquet attendees were entertained by The River City Trio, a Christian trio of gentlemen. National Officers were installed.

### **FORTY-THIRD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **San Antonio, Texas ~ June 9-11, 2005**

The Forty-Third National Assembly was held in San Antonio, Texas, at the Omni Hotel, June 9-11, 2005. National President Carolee P. McKinstry presided. Catherine Ford Brister was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Lyde B. Jones, First Vice President; Mary F. Rever, Second Vice President; Ann Leadbetter, Recording Secretary; Adele Streeck, Corresponding Secretary; Nelly G. Shearer, Treasurer; Dorothy Lee, Chaplain; Julia Mestemacher, Registrar; and Shirley Gray Jones, Historian. Hotel rooms cost \$81.00. Meals cost \$14.00, \$17.50, \$20.50, and \$24.00. Thirty-nine members and guests attended. The Texas Luncheon speaker was Ina B. Morris, Assembly Chairman, who spoke on the meaning of “A Southwestern Belle”, everything a Southern belle is and even more. Twelve deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Banquet speaker was Robert Burchard who spoke on Texas history especially the town of Gonzales up to the Battle of the Alamo. The Treasurer reported a Certificate of Deposit of \$65,000.00 with 2.60% interest; \$2,741.39 in checking account; and \$12,916.57 in Endowment Account. The Registrar reported thirty-eight new members. Attendees at the Creative Arts Banquet were entertained by Fandango Dancers from the San Antonio Cultural Center, one boy and six girls, aged 9 through 12 years old, who also demonstrated the Mexican Hat Dance. Twenty-three awards for Creative Arts were given.

### **FORTY-FORTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** **Saint Augustine, Florida ~ June 8-10, 2006**

The Forty-Forth National Assembly was held in Saint Augustine, Florida, at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Historic, June 8-10, 2006. National President Carolee P. McKinstry presided. Other National Officers serving were Lyde B. Jones, First Vice President; Mary R. Rever, Second Vice President; Ann Leadbetter, Recording Secretary; Adele Streeck, Corresponding Secretary; Nelly G. Shearer, Treasurer; Dorothy M. Lee, Chaplain; Julia V. Mestemacher, Registrar; and Shirley Gray Jones, Historian. Catherine Ford Brister was honored as Immediate Past National President. Sixty members and guests attended. Hotel rooms cost \$97.01. Meals cost \$10.00, \$15.00, and \$32.00. Members and guests enjoyed tour of Deaf & Blind School, tour of Flagler College, Trolley Tour of Old St. Augustine Village, Lightner Museum, followed by a Dutch Treat Dinner at Rainforest Restaurant. The Florida Luncheon speaker was Richard Coleman, Dean, The School for the Deaf and Blind. Thirteen deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Opening Banquet speaker was Melissa Stuart of Old St. Augustine Village who spoke on Old Florida and the explorer Ponce de Leon landing in St. Augustine in 1513. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Dr. Matthew Comerford, Optometrist. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker told about “Henry Flagler and His Three Wives”. Membership awards were given to TN, MS, MD, LA, NC, KY, FL and GA for new members totaling 136.

## **FORTY-FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Baton Rouge, Louisiana ~ June 7-9, 2007**

The Forty-Fifth National Assembly was held in Baton Rouge, at the Holiday Inn South, June 7-9, 2007. National President Mary F. Rever presided. Carolee P. McKinstry was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Nelly G. Shearer, First Vice President; Bettie H. Johnson, Second Vice President; Shirley G. Jones, Recording Secretary; Mae B. Cooper, Corresponding Secretary; Linnie S. Comerford, Treasurer; Ann C. Leadbetter, Chaplain; Dorothy M. Lee, Registrar; and Julia V. Mestemacher, Historian. Forty members and guests attended. Members and guests enjoyed a tour of Houmas House followed by dinner at The Cabin. The Louisiana Luncheon was Ginger Miller, Director of the Baton Rouge Eye Bank. The Opening Banquet speaker was Matthew Reonas, Heritage Trail Coordinator with the LA Office of Tourism, who gave a slide presentation on Louisiana architecture 1920-1930. The first National Handbook was compiled, printed and distributed to all National Officers and State Society Presidents with additional copies available for purchase by the members. Carolee McKinstry PNP and Catherine Brister PNP chaired the Handbook Committee. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Dr. George Jones, retired ophthalmologist, who spoke on his work with bifocal contact lenses with great information and amusement. The Registrar reported sixty-eight new members. The Creative Arts Banquet entertainment was a musical concert of harmony by "The Sweet Adelines". Twenty-five awards were given and the Georgia Society won 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Most New Members and \$125.00 cash award.

## **FORTY-SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Baltimore, Maryland ~ June 12-14, 2008**

The Forty-Sixth National Assembly was held in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Peabody Court Hotel, June 12-14, 2008. National President Mary F. Rever presided. Carolee P. McKinstry was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Nelly Shearer, First Vice President; Bettie Johnson, Second Vice President; Shirley Jones, Recording Secretary; Mae B. Cooper, Corresponding Secretary; Sue Comerford, Treasurer; Julia V. Mestemacher, Chaplain; Dorothy Lee, Registrar; and Bobbye Harkins, Historian. Fritz Martin served as Parliamentarian. Forty-three members and guests attended. Meals cost \$21.00, \$22.00, \$26.00, and \$45.00. Members enjoyed the "Ride the Ducks" tour of downtown Baltimore and the inner harbor, a tour of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, home of the Engineer's Club of Baltimore including a buffet pasta dinner there. The Maryland Luncheon was held at the Engineer's Club. The speaker was Dr. Julie King, PhD., Professor of Archeology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. All other luncheons and banquets were held in the Rooftop North Room with a grand view of the Baltimore Harbor. Ten deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The speaker for the Opening Evening Banquet was Mary Ann Jung who portrayed Rosalie Calvert as "The Mistress of Riversdale Plantation". The Treasurer reported a \$65,000.00 certificate of deposit with 5.25% interest; a \$9,500.00 certificate of deposit with 5.25% interest; and a checking balance of \$15,657.58. The Registrar reported seventy-three new members. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Carl Lancaster, Interim President, Maryland School for the Blind. The Creative Arts Banquet attendees were entertained by the amazing Mandolin Orchestra Combo directed by David Evans. Fred Leadbetter presented \$1,000.00 to SDA in memory of his wife, Ann Craft Leadbetter, who was serving as National Chaplain at the time of her death.

**FORTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Natchez, Mississippi ~ June 11-13, 2009**

The Forty-Seventh National Assembly was held in Natchez, Mississippi, at The Natchez Eola Hotel, June 11-13, 2009. National President Nelly G. Shearer presided. Mary F. Rever was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Bettie H. Johnson, First Vice President; Dorothy Lee, Second Vice President; Mae W. Boyer Cooper, Chaplain; Betty W. Stevens, Recording Secretary; Shirley G. Jones, Corresponding Secretary; Sue Comerford, Treasurer; Robin R. Towns, Registrar; Gabrielle Hadyka, Historian; and Bobbye Harkins, Parliamentarian. Rooms cost \$98.00. Meals cost \$25.00, \$26.00, \$36.00, and \$48.00. Forty-one members and guests attended. Members and guests enjoyed a tour of "Rosalie", the Mississippi Society DAR mansion. Walt Grayson, a Natchez TV Personality, spoke on "Looking Around Mississippi". Dinner that evening was at "Dunleith", an exquisite antebellum home. The Mississippi Luncheon speaker was Joseph Frank, Natchez anthropologist, who spoke on "Fort Rosalie at Natchez". Fifteen deceased dames were remembered at the Memorial Service including Ann Douglas Seay Briglia, Past National President 1986-1988; Judith Anne Lee, Louisiana Society President; and Julia Owen Vantreas Mestemacher, Tennessee State President and Past National Chaplain, Recording Secretary, and Registrar. The Opening Banquet speaker was Joan McLemore dressed in period costume who spoke on "Stories of the South". The National President welcomed Southport, North Carolina, into SDA. A committee is working on the completion of a national web page. A charm for SDA has been approved and will be available in October. The Treasurer reported a balance in checking of \$17,025.93. The Registrar reported seventy new members. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Dr. Rosie Pridgen, Director, Mississippi School for the Blind. The National Eye Program Chairman reported a total of \$10,760.00 in monetary contributions. The Creative Arts Banquet speaker was Reverend Allen Brown who spoke on "Uncharted Waters ~ Exploring Homeland Security in the South 1860-1900". Commodore Brown was given a Merit Award for his work with the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard, which he still serves in an auxiliary capacity. Frederick E. Leadbetter was made an Honorary Member of SDA in recognition of his extensive support of SDA in honor of his deceased wife, Ann Craft Leadbetter. Sixteen awards were presented for creative arts.

**FORTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Durham, North Carolina ~ June 10-12, 2010**

The Forty-Eighth National Assembly was held in Durham, North Carolina, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center, June 10-12, 2010. National President Nelly G. Shearer presided. Mary F. Rever was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Bettie H. Johnson, First Vice President; Dorothy M. Lee, Second Vice President; Mae Boyer Cooper, Chaplain; Betty W. Stevens, Recording Secretary; Shirley G. Jones, Corresponding Secretary; Sue Comerford, Treasurer; Robin R. Towns, Registrar; Gabrielle Hadyka, Historian; and Bobbye Harkins, Parliamentarian. Rooms cost \$84.00. Meals cost \$25.00 and \$39.00. Sixty-one members and guests attended. Members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Old Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion, a Queen Anne style home. A North Carolina Barbecue Buffet followed in the Crystal Coast Room of the Sheraton. Members

enjoyed Workshops given by NC Dames: History & Legacy of the Hankerchief presented by Nora Hickam and History & Language of the Fan presented by Mary Ann Hepler. The North Carolina Luncheon entertainment was a Musical Tour of the Southern States by Duke and Amanda Ladd. Sixteen departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service, including a Tribute to Anne Bright Branford Past National President 1992-1994 by Carolee P. McKinstry. The National President announced the organizing of Virginia, Alabama and New Jersey Societies of SDA. Arizona and Missouri are in beginning stages of organization. Georgia is forming a state society with two chapters, Oconee Chapter and Wiregrass Chapter. Charms and branch bars are not available from Hamilton Jewelers (replacing J.E. Caldwell) and cost \$15.00 and \$23.00, respectively. The National President reported on the inventory of SDA materials at the Atlanta History Center. Camille Baxter will access the condition of the archival materials and report to the 49th Assembly, along with beginning the task of preparing a history. The Treasurer reported a certificate of deposit of \$75,000.00 at 1.98% interest; and a balance in checking account of \$7,358.14. The Registrar reported forty-nine new members since the Fall 2009 *Journal*. The Opening Evening Banquet was a Country Social Dinner. Members and guests enjoyed entertainment by Duke Ladd and Bill Perks who performed “18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music”. A silent auction was held with proceeds going to the Helen Keller Gazebo project. The Eye Luncheon program was presented by William T. Clemons and Nor’e, his seeing-eye dog, on “Eye Dogs and Their Training”. The Creative Arts Banquet entertainment was presented by Emily Weil and Jean Clay performing “There’s Nothing Like a Southern Dame” honoring Nelly G. Shearer, National President. The program after dinner was a skit performance of the “Cornwallis’ Campaign ~ Wilmington to Yorktown” by members Emily Weil and Company (NC Dames) in period costume. The National President reported that the proceeds from the Silent Auction totaled \$615.50 for the Helen Keller Gazebo project.

## **FORTY-NINTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

### **Athens, Georgia ~ June 2-4, 2011**

The Forty-Ninth National Assembly was held in Athens, Georgia, June 2-4, 2011, at The Holiday Inn of Athens. National President Dorothy M. Lee presided. Nelly G. Shearer was honored as Immediate Past National President. Other National Officers were Robin R. Towns, First Vice President; Sue Comerford, Second Vice President; Virginia Barnard, Chaplain; Gabrielle Hadyka, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Betty W. Stevens, Treasurer; Camille R. Baxter, Registrar; Doris N. Thompson, Historian; and Fritz Martin, Parliamentarian. Rooms cost \$92.00. Meals cost \$22.00, \$34.00, and \$36.00. Fifty-nine members and guests attended. The Pre-conference tour was of the Ware Lyndon House Museum and Lyndon House Arts Center with a morning coffee. Members and guests enjoyed a private tour and Southern Supper that evening at the T.R.R. Cobb House, magnificent home of Confederate General Thomas Reade Rootes Cobb, which has been masterfully restored. Entertainment was provided by Ramona Lord who presented “Georgia Musical Favorites”. The Georgia Luncheon, presided by Camille Baxter, National Registrar, highlighted Georgia products: poultry, pecans, peaches and peanuts with chicken centerpieces. Mary Long, Humorist, gave a hilarious program on “Special Southern Architecture” (outhouses). Twelve departed dames were remembered at the Memorial Service. The Georgia Reception was held in the Hospitality Suite, followed by the Georgia Banquet. Members and guests were entertained



by “Handpicked in Dixie”, the six Warneke family children singing and strumming in period costume. National Officers reported at the First Plenary Session. The Treasurer reported \$6,684.01 in checking and a \$75,000.00 certificate of deposit. The Registrar reported eighty-one new members. Stacia Bennett, Athens Area Coordinator for Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. brought her seeing-eye dog, a standard apricot Poodle. Julian J. Nussbaum, M.D., Georgia Health Sciences University (formerly Medical College of Georgia) gave an excellent program on macular degeneration. Robin Towns, National First Vice President, presided over the Creative Arts Banquet where members and guests were entertained with “Let Dixie Remember” by Deborah Wilkie, Harp of Dixie, playing the Celtic harp and dressed in period costume. Twelve Creative Arts awards were given and membership awards were given. A successful silent auction was held.

**FIFTIETH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**Nashville, Tennessee ~ May 31-June 2, 2012**  
**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

The Fiftieth National Assembly was held in Nashville, Tennessee, May 31-June 2, 2013, at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. National President Robin Towns assumed office automatically upon the death of our dear Dorothy May Lee on May 19, 2012, and presided over the National Assembly. Dorothy May Lee was honored and remembered as Immediate Past National President. The 2012 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Assembly Program was dedicated to our dearly departed Dorothy May Lee. Other National Officers were Sue Comerford, Vice President; Virginia S. Barnard, Chaplain; Gabrielle Hadyka, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Betty W. Stevens, Treasurer; Camille R. Baxter, Registrar; Doris N. Thomson, Historian; and Nelly G. Shearer, Immediate Past National President. Rooms cost \$119.00. Meals cost \$20.00, \$29.00, and \$38.00. Fifty-three members and guests attended. Members and guests enjoyed a pre-assembly tour of The Hermitage, Home of Andrew Jackson with dinner afterward at the Hermitage House Smorgasbord. Nellie G. Shearer, Immediate Past National President placed the wide sash on National President Robin Towns prior to the start of the Assembly. Members not involved with Committee Meetings enjoyed a program on “The History of Tea” by Jo Hill, a Tennessee member. The Tennessee Luncheon program was given by Ann Ellington Wagner, Hostess for Ellington Agricultural Center, on “Mules and Molasses”. Twenty departed dames and one Honorary Member were remembered at the Memorial Service. Fritzi Martin gave a Tribute for Dorothy May Lee, Immediate Past National President. Robin Towns gave a Tribute to Honorary Member, Frederick Eugene Leadbetter, Sr., whose wife Ann was a National Officer in SDA and who gave generous support to SDA for many years. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opening Banquet speaker was Thomas Y. Cartwright, A & E Historian and lecturer on the War Between the States. National Officers reported at First Plenary Session. The Treasurer reported \$20,324.66 in the checking account including reserve funds and a \$75,000.00 certificate of deposit and \$20,739.01 endowment fund. The Registrar reported seventy-seven new members. The Eye Luncheon speaker was Dr. Rebecca Sappington, MS, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. The Ann Craft Creative Arts Awards Banquet speaker was Dr. Candace Adelson, Ph.D., Senior Curator, Fashion and Textiles ~ Tennessee State Museum, who spoke on “Preservation of the Civil War Flags at the

Tennessee State Museum”. Fifty-four awards were given at the Assembly including arts awards, membership awards, eye awards, eye report awards, historian awards, and membership awards. Later in July, the National President represented the National Society Southern Dames of America at the Opening Night of DAR Continental Congress in Washington, DC, seated on the platform with the heads of hereditary societies.