

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE “ANCIENTS”

The Honorable Artillery Company was incorporated in London, England in 1537. It is the third oldest chartered military organization in the world.

As the first colonists settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, each group of settlers brought with them one or more professional soldiers to train them in their own defense and to command their militia. Many of these men were members of the Honorable Artillery Company of London.

The officers and other gentlemen saw the need for a similar military organization in the New World in order to establish uniformity of military drill and tactics in the new colony. These prominent men applied for a Charter for that purpose in 1637 one hundred years after the founding of the Honorable Artillery Company of London. The Charter was finally granted in 1638. Thus, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts became the oldest chartered military organization in the New World.

The members of the Company trod every battlefield of New England; they fought for freedom on foreign soil; they judged the courts; they pleaded at the bar; they instituted town governments; they were active in settling the towns of the frontier; they were among the founders of our great academic institutions. They became the progenitors of our substantial and dominant families of colonial descent.

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The National Society of Women Descendants of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company

MOTTO

“Set a Watch Lest Old Traditions Fail”

Founded 4 January 1927

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

1. The objects of this society shall be to aid in perpetuating and honoring the memory of the members of the Military Company of Massachusetts, afterwards known as the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, who fought for the protection of the American Colonies and who aided in establishing their independence.
2. To commemorate the organization of the Company in 1637, the granting to them of the Charter on 17 March 1638 and their first meeting under the Charter on the first Monday in June 1638.
3. To incite a higher patriotism, a purer citizenship, an unswerving loyalty to our country, to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, and to foster a close fraternity among its members.
4. Its purpose shall be education; to aid in the study of historical, genealogical, and biographical research.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our Society's website at:
wdahac.com.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Women are age eighteen and olden and must prove lineal descent from a qualifying ancestor.

Qualifying Ancestors are:

1. A member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company from 1637-1774.
2. A member of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay in 1638, comprising the Governor, the Governor's Council and Deputies to the General Court.
3. A member of the clergy who preached an Annual Election Sermon from 1638-1774.

A list of qualifying ancestors may be found at our website at wdahac.com.

Additional genealogical information about qualifying ancestors may be found in the Society's publication *Genealogical Data of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company* by Jeannine Kallal, published 2020.

TO JOIN

Contact our Membership Chairman:
Kelly Carey
membershipwdahac@gmail.com

COURTS OF ASSISTANTS

The National Society is organized into State societies known as Courts of Assistants. The Courts participate in all the functions of the National Society, including Service to Veterans, support of schools, and historic preservation.

RENDEZVOUS

The National meeting of the Society is held during the month of April in the Washington, D.C. area. All members are encouraged to attend this time of celebration of the Society's accomplishments and fellowship with members from other states.



PRESIDENT NATIONAL PROJECT FOR 2025-2028

The Military Women's Memorial.