

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Daughters of the American Revolution recognizes new female Patriot who hosted Jefferson and Madison**  
*Mary House, Revolutionary-era Tavern Owner, is one of just over 1,200 female Patriots to whom DAR members trace their lineage*

WASHINGTON - This Women's History Month, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is proud to announce the recognition of a new female Patriot: Mary House, a Revolutionary-era tavern owner in Philadelphia. This recognition as a proven NSDAR ancestor cements House's role in shaping the nation's history. To date, one member has traced her ancestry to this new Patriot.

House operated the renowned House Inn from 1774 to 1787, beginning the business after she was widowed. Her Patriot status was authenticated through three years of tax payments—1779, 1782, and 1783—made on her business, directly supporting the Revolutionary cause and underscoring her commitment to the country's birth. The House Inn became a hub for influential figures such as Jefferson, Madison, and Deane, where politics played out over fine foods and among famous lodgers.

**This acknowledgment marks a significant milestone for women's history**, as House joins a select group of just over 1,200 female Patriots recognized by NSDAR since its inception in 1890. As the nation launches America's 250th celebrations, House's inclusion enriches the narrative of America's founding, emphasizing the contributions of women in financing and shaping the Revolutionary War.

"We are thrilled to add Mary House to our list of verified female Patriots," says Pamela Wright, NSDAR President General and the National Society's volunteer elected CEO. "As we approach our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, DAR members across the country are concentrating on sharing the stories of these amazing Americans, helping contemporary U.S. citizens understand the relevancy of Patriots to our lives today. As a female entrepreneur myself, I am inspired by the story of Mrs. House."

Virginia DAR State Regent Laurie Parker Nesbitt was also excited about this discovery led by a Virginia Daughter. "Virginia Daughters are proud of our member's contribution to this genealogical research that confirms a female Patriot with ties to Virginia's rich Revolutionary-era history," Nesbitt says. "This discovery provides added historical context for visitors to historic Virginia sites relevant to Thomas Jefferson and will continue to benefit future genealogical researchers."

Given the Philadelphia location of the House Inn, the recognition of Mary House as a new female Patriot is particularly of historic note in Pennsylvania. "As a DAR member in Philadelphia, I'm excited to learn more about this fellow Pennsylvania woman and her contributions to the Revolutionary cause," says Marguerite Fritsch, State Regent of Pennsylvania DAR. "We are fortunate to have so much rich history from the founding of our country in Philadelphia. I would love to see more females identified who helped the cause. We know they did!"

**The journey to validate Mary House's Patriot status was a collaborative effort spanning multiple years and involving more than 15 individuals across five NSDAR chapters and three states, along with additional historians and translators.** Spearheading the application was Karen A. Chase, an author and independent historian currently crafting a biography of House's daughter, Eliza Trist. Trist, a lifelong friend to Thomas Jefferson, is better known for keeping a journal for him during her westward trip into Mississippi territory two decades before Lewis and Clark. Trist's grandson later married Jefferson's granddaughter.

"A historical marker that once marked the location of the House Inn—at Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia—never mentioned Mary House or Eliza Trist," says Chase, author of *Carrying Independence* and a DAR member in Richmond, Virginia and in the DAR Albemarle chapter. "That marker was removed years ago and replaced by a public restroom." Today, that corner is the location of the Independence Visitor Center. Of the 2,500 historical markers in Pennsylvania, only about 200 feature women.

The Arch Street cemetery where Mary House's remains were buried in 1793 was built over in 1860. Eliza Trist died at Monticello in 1828, two years after Jefferson, where she lies nearby in an unmarked grave in the Monticello cemetery.

**What the Patriot status will help achieve.** "The goal is to ensure each of these women has a grave marker and historical recognition for their part in the founding and expansion of this country," Chase says. "In honor of the 250th, we are striving to broaden the narrative we tell about the founding of this country. Eliza and Mary matter. Who we tell our origin stories about matters so more of us can envision ourselves contributing to our future."

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to preserve the memory and spirit of those who contributed to securing American independence. For more than 130 years, the DAR has strived to bring awareness to the honorable sacrifices and enduring legacy of all Patriots who fought for America's freedom. Through the DAR Genealogical Research System ([www.dar.org/GRS](http://www.dar.org/GRS)), the public can access a free database of information amassed by the DAR about these patriots. DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's service organization with more than 185,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. DAR members passionately carry out the timeless mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

#NSDAR #ThomasJefferson #FoundingMothers #Monticello #IndependenceHall #genealogy