



National Society
Magna Charta Dames®

The National Society Magna Charta Dames and Barons

An Hereditary Order
Instituted March 1, 1909

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Somerset Chapter
Magna Charta Barons®

July 23, 2020 Report To the Magna Carta Trust

By Lewis L. Neilson, Jr., Chancellor

1. We have a great opportunity as the power of destiny propels us to provide a reminder of the inspirations of 1215 and 1225 to provide a foundation for individual liberty which sustains the spark of freedom from tyranny.
2. We applaud the outstanding Report on the 800th Anniversary, by Sir Robert Worcester, which describes the successful efforts and participation of all of the stakeholders and their creative ability to leverage the financial support from the MCT, the UK Government, Surrey Council, Runnymede Council and private contributions. Sir Robert Worcester's vision, organization, and personal encouragement, leading by example, has produced a lasting memory, memorialized in the Report. This report can be a guide for future Anniversaries.
3. Looking forward, the Anniversary Year **2025** provides the next series of Aspirations to remind us of the Magna Carta. As we illuminate the messages within that Magna Charta, we can coordinate with those in the United States who are Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, in 2026.
4. **Aspirations- UK**
5.
 - a. Continuing the 10 year Fairhaven Lecture Series. Our Society offered to sponsor a proposal with Royal Holloway University as the host for this series and we appreciate that Royal Holloway prepared the grant request and also that Runnymede Magna Carta Legacy provided the matching support along with the Magna Carta Trust.
 - b. Encouraging Charter Town Triennial Celebrations with possible participation or additional programs at the 23 Towns and Villages of the Magna Carta Barons.
 - c. Preparing for the 2025 Programs to observe the 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta issued by King Henry III, including coordination with Runnymede and Royal Holloway educational activities. These programs could reinforce the 800th Anniversary Activities accomplished in 2015. These programs could include original documents relating to the evolution of UK Law.

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8. **Aspirations – US – Magna Charta Dames and Barons**
9. a. April 17, 2021 (postponed from April 18, 2020), National Press Club, Washington, DC. Lecture by the Dean of Rochester Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Dr Philip Hesketh ACK DL. Subject: The Textus Roffensis, at Rochester Cathedral, has been described as one of the most important documents in English history and is not only hugely important in the history of English law and language but is also believed to have influenced the wording of the Magna Carta of 1215 and, later, the American Declaration of Independence of 1776.
10. b. TBD. Programs to explore the development of American Law in the Colonies prior to 1776. These programs could include original documents within the Colonies prior to the Declaration of Independence, reinforced by an Exhibit approximately 2023 of original documents from that period. This Exhibit could include documents from the UK.
11. c. TBD. Traveling exhibit beginning early 2026 to include US and UK Documents including a copy of a Declaration of Independence, an original or draft of the Constitution and possibly an original Magna Carta, to illustrate the evolution of law prior to adoption of the Constitution. This Exhibit could open July 3, 2026, in Philadelphia, possibly at the Museum of the American Revolution.
12. d. TBD Programs to explore and compare the development of UK and US Law following the adoption of the Constitution.
13. **Additional Projects:**
14. a. Genealogical and historical research concerning the immigrants to America, descendants of the Baronial Army of 1215. This could involve comparison of the motivations of those who challenge authority, especially when they risk substantial loss.
15. b. Memories of the Magna Charta, portrayed by words and video. This effort will include links to various sites, including the 800th Website and YouTube. I recorded many meetings and events as did others who we hope will assist with the memory. The story we prepare should have one focus, to inspire peoples to understand and relate to the legacy of the Magna Charta so they are empowered to accept their rights, as the American Colonists did in 1776, and release the awesome power of creativity which is held by free people. When people are no longer distracted by oppression, to spark of freedom can become a beacon.
16. Continuing thanks to all members of the Committee and Sir Robert Worcester for inspiring extraordinary programs resulting in increased awareness of Magna Charta. **Developing awareness of Magna Charta** is our Society mission statement.
17. I am honored to and a Trustee of the Magna Charta Trust and was honored to be a member of the 800th Committee and look forward to continuing active participation to develop awareness of Magna Carta.
18. We welcome suggestions for our future support of Magna Charta.