

**Lucy Carter Dunbar Cutler (Mrs. Edward H. Cutler)
(1848-1918)**

One of the founders of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota was Lucy Carter Dunbar Cutler. Descended from the Honorable Edmund Hobart (1570-1646), Lucy was born in Abington, Massachusetts in 1848. She was the daughter of William Harrison Dunbar and Amelia Hobart.

In June 1872, she married Edward Hutchins Cutler in Boston and moved to Minnesota. They had seven children, including two who became Colonial Dames; Amelia Dunbar Cutler and Mary Hale Cutler Sargent. Both Edward and Lucy are listed in the New York General Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was active in the Sons of the Revolution and she in the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both were members of the Town and Country Club, and he was a founding member of the Minnesota Boat Club and a member of the University Club and the Minnesota Club.

Edward was born in Boston and came to Minnesota at the age of 15 with his brother, who was in ill health and was told to seek a change in climate. Edward 's father came to Minnesota and purchased a farm before returning to Boston, which Edward and his brother lived on for four years. They then spent two years abroad. When he returned to Minnesota after his brother's death, he joined the wholesale drug business with Daniel and Charles Noyes. Daniel and Charles were brothers whose wives were also among the founders of the NSCDA-MN. In 1900, Lucy, Edward and their family lived at 360 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. Daniel and Helen Noyes lived next door.



Figure 1 Lucy Dunbar Cutler, used with permission of Pam Fricke.



Figure 2: Walmere, summer home on Cape Cod.

Edward and Lucy had a summer cottage in Chatham, Massachusetts - on Cape Cod - which they named Walmere, using the first initial of each child's first name (William, Amelia, Lucia, Mary, Elinor, Ruth and Emily.)

Lucy's involvement with the Home for the Friendless was noted in the *St. Paul Daily Globe*, which stated, "Mrs. Edward Cutler is always doing good deeds in a most unostentatious manner." The Home for the Friendless was founded in 1867 to provide shelter for destitute women and children. Well-known suffragist Harriet Bishop was one of the founders. In 1935, the name was changed to "The Protestant Home."

In addition to her status as a Charter Member of the NSCDA – MN in 1896, Lucy served as Historian in 1906. Her report tells of the visit of the National President, Mrs. William R. Cox of Virginia. Mrs. Cox visited at the invitation of Mrs. Daniel R. Noyes, and was treated to an automobile ride to see the Capitol, a song recital by a well-known St. Paul musician, and reception and dinner. The following day, she drove to Minneapolis for a reception at the Plaza, followed by a luncheon at the Minikahda Club. After lunch, Mrs. Cox gave a talk about the work of the Dames in encouraging the historical church at Jamestown to be rebuilt, and described an upcoming exposition at Jamestown the following spring. That evening there was a reception at the home of Miss Furness. The following morning, after further touring in an automobile, there was a luncheon in her honor at the Town and Country Club hosted by Lucy and fellow Dame Sarah Morris.

A handwritten note on aged, yellowed paper. The text is written in cursive and is underlined. It reads: "Respectfully submitted", "Lucy Carter Cutler", and "Historian".

Lucy died on April 9, 1918. Edward Cutler funded a parish house that was added to the Swedenborgian Church (Virginia Avenue Church) in 1922 in honor of Lucy and their daughter Ruth, who died in France of Influenza in December 1918 at the age of 28. The family had been charter members of the church, established in 1887.

Colonial Ancestor

Edmund Hobart was born in Hingham, England in 1570, lived in Massachusetts from 1633-1646, and died in March 1646 in Hingham, Mass. He was in his sixties when he arrived in America with his wife Margaret and three children. They settled in Charlestown, MA before moving about 20 miles southeast to Hingham. He was appointed to try small cases in 1638, and was deputy to the general court in 1639, 1640, and 1642. Lucy was his fifth great granddaughter.

Lucy's great grandfather Aaron Hobart, Edmund's second great grandson, owned and operated a sawmill in Abington, MA, where he sawed the planks for the frigate "Constitution." He was the first person in this country to cast bells, cannon and shot, contracting to make cannon and shot in 1775-1776. Family lore says he sent his son to teach Paul Revere how to mold and cast.

Aaron's son Benjamin owned and operated the first tack factory in Abington, which he transferred to his son-in-law William Dunbar (Lucy's father.) The factory burnt down in 1859 and when it was rebuilt, it was known as "Dunbar, Hobart and Whidden." Abington's primary industry for many years was making shoes and boots, with over half of the boots provided to the Union Army in the Civil War being manufactured there. Having a ready supply of locally mass-produced tacks and shoe nails made this effort more manageable.



Figure 3: "The Old Tack Factory" in Abington, MA, Benjamin Hobart, History of the town of Abington.

In their NSCDA applications, Lucy's daughters went through Lucy's father, William Dunbar, to John Alden as their Colonial ancestor. John was a crew member on the Mayflower who stayed in Plymouth Colony and served as assistant to the Governor for many years.

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