



# THE SPIRIT OF '76

PUBLISHED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

VOLUME 58 NO. 3 FALL 2024

## DSDI Bell Tappers at the Liberty Bell



From left, Thatcher Gregory Adams, Alexander George Gemeinhardt, Isadorya Grace Ariail, Finley Margaret Williams, Noah Lyle Breitenfeld, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park Steven Sims, Steven Chase Belman, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, Elise Braxton Cruz, Sophia Rose Cruz, Marin Ashby Gemeinhardt, Sloane Elizabeth Adams, DSDI President-General Nancy McBride Wark, Bennett Moon Adams and Michael Whelan, President of the Pennsylvania Society for the Sons of the Revolution



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# Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

## DSDI Officers 2024-2025

### President-General

Nancy McBride Wark  
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### First Vice President-General

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### Second Vice

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### Assistant-Secretary-General

Sara Araujo

### Chancellor-General

James S. Bainbridge, Esq.

### Chaplain-General

The Rev. W.P. Daphne Hawkes

### Immediate Past

#### President-General

Lucy Duke Tonacci

## Board of Governors

New Hampshire	Lt. Col. Erin P. Hayde, USAF
Massachusetts	Ellen Brinker
Rhode Island	Elizabeth "Beth" Di Censo
Connecticut	Henry "Duke" Beecher
New York	Elaine Livingston
New Jersey	Gregory Munro
Pennsylvania	Stacie Pagano
Delaware	Morgan Shank
Maryland	Madelyn Sturgeon
Virginia	Leroy "Andy" Keller, Jr.
North Carolina	Sheryll Pope Albert
South Carolina	Robin Leigh Rawl
Georgia	Weston Croft
District of Columbia	Laura Belman



## How to submit to The Spirit of '76

We welcome submissions from members. Have you visited your Signer's gravesite? Do you have mementoes of your Signer? Do you participate in events related to the Declaration of Independence? If so, send us a photo and a brief description. We'd love to hear from you. Please address any emails to Hunter George at [htgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:htgeorge@gmail.com).

## From the President-General



Dear Descendants,

We had an outstanding turnout for our 4th of July meeting and bell tapping in Philly this year—over 90 attendees! This year, the Mayor of Philadelphia was at the tapping and spoke very highly of the DSDI and that she was honored to meet descendants of the signers. Stacie Pagano planned a private after-hours tour of the Betsy Ross House, which was enjoyed by all—check out the photos on Facebook.

Our Signers Wives Plaque Committee, consisting of Ellen Brinker, Sheryll Albert, Jeff Ward, and Shirley

Smith, are to be commended and given our thanks for their tireless efforts to honor the wives. Every attempt is being made to recognize each one of these wives, but some of their grave sites are unknown. Another issue is some cemeteries will not give us permission to mark the graves. We also have chosen not to add a plaque when it is completely clear the grave site is marked as the wife of a signer. The committee has made great progress and hopes to soon complete this project.

Our society continues to be financially sound and growing in membership. We offer our thanks to the efforts of our Treasurer-General Scott Lewis and Registrar-General Wendy Davis-Bushey. Our committees are highly active, and you will read about some of their activities in this edition.

We hope to see many of you at our upcoming meetings. Our fall meeting will be October 18-20, 2024, in Rhode Island. Please read more about this meeting on our website and Facebook. Also, please save the date for our spring meeting in Washington, DC, April 4-6, 2025. Did you ever want your picture taken alongside the Declaration? Or to tour the new \$621 million Capitol Visitor Center? Or see the Library of Congress, where hostess Laura Belman is a 20-year docent? If so, you will want to sign up for the April 4-6, 2025 DSDI meeting in Washington.

If you have not already logged on to the Member Dashboard on the DSDI Website, please take the time to familiarize yourself with all the options available. You can update your contact information and communication preferences as well as access the online member directory and make payments. To gain access to your account, the email address used to send you society communications and the "Lost your password" function on the Member Login page should be enough information to set up your login. If you need assistance, please contact [dsdiregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:dsdiregistrar@gmail.com) or [dsdiwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:dsdiwebmaster@gmail.com).

*Nancy McBride Wark*

### Nancy McBride Wark

President-General

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

[dsdipresident@gmail.com](mailto:dsdipresident@gmail.com)

# Annual Meeting Photos



Bell tappers at practice



President-General Nancy McBride Wark addresses the annual meeting



Submitted this photo of the Cruz family First Vice-President Andy Keller proudly submitted this photo of his granddaughters and family at the bell tapping, from left, Rachel Cruz, Shelley Horsley Cruz, Elise Braxton Cruz, Sophia Rose Cruz, Luis Alberto Cruz



Jim and Johnny Alexander with Stacey Bohning representing the John Witherspoon family



National Park Superintendent Steven Sims shares the history of the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall



Laura Belman discusses the Spring meeting in Washington



Lucy, Hollis and Julie Martin, with Bebe Williams and Betsy Ross at the Betsy Ross House



Mayor Cherelle Parker with Park Superintendent Steven Sims at the bell tapping



National Park Ranger Dave Powers addresses the annual meeting

# Annual Meeting Photos



Scholarship winners Hollis and Lucy Martin and Stephanie Nelson



Tom and Barbara Greeley, Kathryn Keller, Nancy McBride Wark, Stephanie Nelson, Stacey Bohning and Andy Keller at dinner on Wednesday night



Newly elected board members Scott Lewis, Andy Keller, Barbara Greeley, Stephanie Nelson, with Nancy Wark



Scott and Ruth Lewis, Stephanie Nelson at General Meeting in the Long Gallery



Board meeting with Laura Belman, Hope Wood, Stephanie Nelson, Nancy McBride Wark, Andy Keller, Scott Lewis, Barbara Greeley, Stacie Pagano, Stacey Bohning and Daphne Hawkes



President-General Nancy McBride Wark at the Bell Tapping



# Time Well Spent: Visiting Family Heirloom While in Philly

While in Philadelphia attending the Society's annual meeting this year, I visited my six-times great grandfather's grandfather clock at the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS), located at 425 Lombard Street. My signer John Witherspoon brought the clock with him on the ship Peggy in 1768 when he emigrated with his family from Scotland to become president of the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University.

The grandfather clock stood taller than me against a wall adorned with blue painted trim inside the lobby of the PHS. Its city of origin, Paisley, could be read clearly on its ornate face. Two delicate flowers decorated the top of the cabinet, and although no one has been able to fix the clock, so it chimes, its inner workings were visible through a small rectangular window on each side.

While taking in all the details of the clock, I imagined my signer ancestor, his wife, and his children looking at and listening to the same clock as it kept track of time inside their home. I had never stood in the presence of any object that belonged to my signer before, and it's an experience I will always remember. I would like to thank cousin Jim Alexander for sending me the link to a PHS blog article about the provenance of the grandfather clock some years ago because otherwise I wouldn't have known about its existence.

*Stacey Bohning*

## FLYING THE DSDI FLAG

We just received the new guidon/flag for DSDI. We have it displayed on the side of our home here in Raleigh, NC. The flag is a great idea for the society, to have the smaller guidon. The colors and printing are really nice.

*Judy Livingston Newman (and Jim)*

DSDI members can order the flag on our website:  
<https://www.dsdi1776.com/member-resources/merchandise/>



# BELL TAPPERS 2024



Bennett



Sloane



Thatcher



Isadorya



Steven



Noah



Elise



Sophia



Alex



Marin



Finley

► **Bennett Moon Adams** is a descendant of Matthew Thornton. He is a rising high school sophomore at AIM Academy in Conshohocken, PA, where he is a member of the varsity basketball team. Bennett's interests include STEAM and photography. He was born in Atlanta and resides in Haverford, PA.

**Sloane Elizabeth Adams** is a descendant of Matthew Thornton. She is a rising 7th grader at AIM Academy in Conshohocken, PA, and enjoys creative outlets like art, dance and drama. Sloane was born in Wynnewood, PA, and resides in Haverford, PA.

**Thatcher Gregory Adams** is a descendant of Matthew Thornton. He is a rising high school senior at AIM Academy in Conshohocken, PA, where he is goalie and captain of the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. Thatcher is on the Student Council and serves as all-school president. He is currently touring colleges and planning on majoring in engineering. Thatcher was born in Atlanta and resides in Haverford, PA.

**Isadorya Grace Ariail** is a descendant of John Witherspoon. Isadorya is in Grade 11. Her parents are international teachers and she has lived in five countries. Isadorya considers her happiest moments to be those spent learning about a world outside of her own. Her favorite interests are reading, swimming and baking. Isadorya is moving to the International School of Manila where she will attain her IB Diploma Program. She plans to join the school swim team and train for triathlons.

**Steven Chase Belman** is a descendant of three Signers – Samuel Chase, Oliver Wolcott and William Ellery. He is 9 years old and a rising 4th grader at Jack Anderson Elementary in Gallatin, TN. He loves to play baseball, eating steak and traveling to see family.

**Noah Lyle Breitenfeld**, a descendant of John Hart, is the son of Jennifer M. Tyler and Chad Breitenfeld of Mount Laurel, NJ. He is a rising 8th grader at Harrington Middle School. Noah is passionate about musical theater and has performed in a variety of musicals. In his free time, Noah

enjoys ballet, tap, and acro classes. He also enjoys caring for four rescue bunnies. Noah's dream is to attend NYU Tisch School of the Arts and star on Broadway.

**Elise Braxton Cruz** is a descendant of Carter Braxton. Elise will be a 6th grade student at Suzhou Singapore International School in China. She participates in the drama productions at school, recently in the role of King John in "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies." Elise enjoys playing the drums and riding horses. She is an avid reader and enjoys writing. She and her sister Sophia were particularly grateful to be bell tappers this year after their last opportunity was canceled due to Covid.

**Sophia Rose Cruz** is a descendant of Carter Braxton. Sophia will be in eighth grade at Suzhou Singapore International School in China. She studies Chinese and excels at horse riding, having begun jumping competitions this past year. She also enjoys playing badminton and her favorite subject at school is Individuals & Societies. As an American living abroad her whole life, it was a special honor to be part of the bell-tapping ceremony this year.

**Alexander George Gemeinhardt** is a descendant of Benjamin Franklin. Alex was born in New York City in 2007 and will be a high school senior at Professional Children's School. A violinist since the age of 4, Alex is an aspiring conductor. Alex spends his summers at the Interlochen

Arts Camp in Michigan where he is a member of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra. While in New York, he is a member of the InterSchool Orchestra and is a conducting apprentice at the New York Youth Symphony. Alex resides in New York City with his parents Brad and Dana, his sister Marin and their cavapoo, Macintosh.

**Marin Ashby Gemeinhardt** is a descendant of Benjamin Franklin. Marin is an aspiring trumpet player who was born in New York City in 2010 and lives there with her parents Brad and Dana, her brother, Alex and their cavapoo Macintosh. She recently graduated from 8th grade at the Calhoun School and she will attend high school at the Kauffman Center's Special Music School. Marin spends her summers at Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan. Marin enjoys sports, especially softball and basketball, and has played piano since she was 5 years old.

**Finley Margaret Williams** is a descendant of Benjamin Franklin. She has received the high honors award for all three years of middle school, and she also received a citizenship award at her recent 8th grade promotion ceremony. Finley loves soccer and plays on her school team and also on a travel soccer league team. She plays golf and she loves to surf, and worked as a pool and beach attendant on Cape Cod. Finley will attend high school in the fall.



## DSDI APPROVES PLAQUES FOR 4 WIVES OF SIGNERS

- ▶ The DSDI Board of Governors approved plaques for four Signers' wives at the July 3, 2024, meeting.
  - Abigail Burr Hall, first wife of Lyman Hall, to be placed in the Old Burying Ground in Fairfield, Connecticut.
  - Ann Remington Ellery, first wife of William Ellery, to be placed in the Old Burying Ground in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
  - Hannah Jack Thornton, wife of Matthew Thornton, to be placed in the Thornton Graveyard in Merrimack, New Hampshire.
  - A combination plaque for Anne Aylette Lee and Anne Gaskins Pinckard Lee, wives of Richard Henry Lee, to be placed in Burnt House Field Cemetery, Coles Point, Virginia.

# Commemorating the Revolution at St. John's Church

▶ St. John's Church Foundation invited me to attend its Walter W. Craigie Speaker Series program on May 23, 2024. Richmond, Virginia is fortunate to be the site of Historic St. John's Church, founded in 1741. St. John's Church, initially known as Henrico Parish Church, was chosen to house the Second Virginia Convention during March 20-27 of 1775. Patrick Henry, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Peyton Randolph and other prominent Virginians were delegates at this convention.

The Walter W. Craigie speaker on May 23, 2024 was Brent Tarter, a retired Research Historian and Senior Editor at the Library of Virginia. Mr. Tarter's talk was entitled "Conservative Revolutionaries?" Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death speech" was a memorable part of the Second Virginia Convention. Interestingly, Brent Tarter indicated the intent of the Second

Virginia Convention was not to politically disconnect from the British but to let them know we had serious disagreement with the way Britain was treating the 13 American colonies. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress declared independence from Britain, which left no doubt that the intention of the American colonies by then was to totally politically disconnect from Britain.

Having grown up in Atlanta and living on Peachtree Battle Creek, I was very familiar with the American Civil War and how the superior numbers of Union forces determined the outcome. When I became involved with DSDI, I was amazed how our young country was able to defeat the British, who had the number one military force in the world. One of the attributes of DSDI membership is visiting American Revolutionary War sites that led to our ultimate victory.

I now have an understanding and ongoing appreciation of how our country has evolved and maintained its prominence.

*Lawrence "Laurie" M. Croft  
Past President-General of DSDI*



## Celebrating the Fourth



Pictured above: DSDI Past President-General John Glynn, second from left, at Sounds of Liberty event in New Mexico. Pictured at the bottom right: The Republic Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, in Salem, hosted the Sounds of Liberty on July 4 on the Oregon Capitol Grounds in Salem, OR.



William Ellery descendants Cindy Smith and Elizabeth DiCenso with DAR members Charlene Butler, Barbara Simmons, Mary Dennis, Alice Homer and Linda Becker at William Ellery's grave on the 4th of July in Newport, RI.



# Webmaster Report



- ▶ Several updates have been made to the Society's website and I am happy to share that Brittney Kean has joined our Website Committee. If you know anyone else who would be interested in helping with some of these activities, please let me know.

## New Website Pages, Posts (News) and Updates

- Page: Mary Bartlett Bartlett Bio
- News: Update to Nominated Slate of DSDI Officers
- News: General Meeting Minutes from Charleston Added to Website
- News: Host Hotel Accepting Reservations for Fall Meeting in Providence, RI
- News: Registration is Open for the Annual Meeting in Philly!
- News: Join Us for the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia
- News: Georgia Signers' Plaque Restored to Monument
- News: Landscaping Improves John Hart's Memorial
- News: DSDI Represented at North Carolina Events
- Update: Officer's Page
- Update: Merchandise Page (new products, vendors, pricing changes)
- Update: Added Historical Minutes Scanned from the Society's Minute Books
- Update: Reading Recommendations (also updated shelves on Goodreads)
- Spirit: Added Spring 2024

## Current Minutes Page

The page containing the minutes from the society's current century was reorganized and many missing minutes were added. Work on the page is ongoing, and I expect to have located and posted more missing minutes by my next report.

## Spirit Magazine Search Update

There are 113 issues of Spirit of '76 Magazine available on the website. We are still searching for the following issues:

- Any issues before 1973
- Any issues for 1974, 1975, and 1984
- Once volume numbers are used, the following issues are missing:

2001 Volume 35, No. 1; 2002 Volume 36, No. 2; 2003 Volume 37, No. 2; 2003 Volume 37, No. 3 (if there was one); 2003 Volume 37, No. 4 (if there was one); 2013 Volume 47, No. 3 (if there was one); 2015 Volume 49, No. 3 (if there was one); 2019 Volume 53, No. 2 (if there was one); 2019 Volume 53, No. 3 (if there was one)

If you have any of these issues in your possession, please let me know.

## Signers Wives Biographies

I have bios for Sarah Hatfield Clark and Anne Clark Hooper, and they will be published. My records show that a bio has been completed for Laura Collins Wolcott, but I haven't received it yet.

## Future Website Enhancements

An honor roll page will soon be added to the Website listing the military service of the signers. Once it is added, if your signer's service is missing, please let us know and include sources so it can be verified. Thanks to President General Nancy McBride Wark for putting the list together.

A page describing how to participate in the Sounds of Liberty program will soon be added to the Website.

## Official DSDI Facebook Group

The official DSDI Facebook group is used to promote upcoming meetings, share photos from those meetings, share interesting articles about the signers, promote DSDI events, and promote fellowship among members. Andy Keller agreed to serve as an additional admin for the group.

## Website Analytics

Since the site's redesign and launch in October 2022, it has received 205,778 views by 96,796 users. From April 22, 2024, to June 8, 2024, the site received 16,750 views by 8,307 users.

*Stacey M. Bohning*



## In Philadelphia, a grand annual meeting

- ▶ The annual meeting in Philadelphia was an amazing experience that allowed us to commemorate the sacrifices our Signers made to secure Independence. I had the privilege of attending both the bell tappers practice and the actual ceremony. The eleven tappers did a great job of representing their descendants and DSDI, and I was honored to be a part of such a special, sacred occasion.

The mayor of Philadelphia, Cherelle Parker, gave a powerfully moving speech, recognizing if it weren't for the Signers, she would not be able to stand there as the 100th mayor and first female mayor of Philadelphia. She mentioned the message inscribed on the Liberty Bell: Leviticus 25:10- "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," a message that can inspire us all!

During the annual meeting in the Long Gallery, First Vice President-General Andy Keller gave a great presentation in his reading of the Declaration of Independence. President General Nancy McBride Wark recognized the service of Jim and Johnny Alexander. Additionally, we got to witness a tremendous speech from Dave Powers of the National Park Services. He provided a history of Independence Hall (the Pennsylvania State House) and the American Revolution. He mentioned that Benjamin Franklin once stated that America was "a republic if [the people] can keep it." He emphasized that everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and that power resides in the people. The true American Revolution is the belief that everyone has a voice in government, a message our forefathers lived by.

Following the annual meeting, for our evening meal, we enjoyed the selections of traditional hamburgers and hotdogs. After dinner, we had the delightful experience of meeting Betsy Ross in a private tour where she showed us around the house where she stayed as a boarder. She also showed us her upholstery shop, her role in making the nation's first flag, and explained how she encouraged Washington to use a five-pointed star.

A special thank-you to Stacie Pagano, who orchestrated all of the events. If you have never attended the annual meeting, I encourage you to do so next year.

### **Personal Note:**

I would also like to send a special thank-you to Jill Haimes and the DSDI Scholarship Committee. I am so thankful for the award. I am pursuing my doctorate in reading education, and I am grateful for the generosity of DSDI as this scholarship will help make me a better reading teacher for the students in my classroom.

*Stephanie Nelson*  
*Historian-General*

# TREASURER-GENERAL'S REPORT

## ASSETS

The market value of our assets on April 30, 2024, was \$1,827,674 and represents a \$113,931 increase in market value since April 30, 2023.

## OPERATING REVENUES

Our operating revenue represents income associated with contributions, membership dues and amounts received from members to cover the cost of their attendance at DSDI meetings. Fiscal year 2024 started May 1, 2023 and revenues totaled \$100,810 for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2024.

## OPERATING EXPENSES

DSDI operating expenses for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2024 were \$119,927, resulting in an operating loss before investment results of \$19,117. Together with net investment income and gains/losses on investments, net income was \$116,299 for the period.

Assets as of April 30, 2024



<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Scholarship Fund</b>	\$558,636   30%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> <b>Life Dues Fund</b>	\$851,620   47%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> <b>Sustaining Fund</b>	\$400,671   22%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>Wells Fargo</b>	\$16,702   1%

Operating Revenues for Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024



<span style="color: orange;">■</span> <b>Contributions</b>	\$34,110   34%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>Misc Revenue</b>	\$1,520   2%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> <b>Dues &amp; Applications</b>	\$37,575   37%
<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Meeting Receipts</b>	\$27,605   27%

Operating Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024



<span style="color: red;">■</span> <b>Program Service</b>	\$41,885   35%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> <b>Meeting Expenses</b>	\$47,478   39%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> <b>Membership</b>	\$14,284   12%
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> <b>General &amp; Administrative</b>	\$14,138   12%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> <b>Merchandise</b>	\$2,142   2%

## How to order DSDI merchandise

- ▶ Want a DSDI brooch, a ring, a pendant? How about a Christmas ornament, rosette, wine glass, tie or blazer crest? These and other items reflecting your membership in DSDI are available to order. It's easy.



Go to <https://www.dsd1776.com/member-resources/merchandise/>  
Or email: [dsdimerchandise@gmail.com](mailto:dsdimerchandise@gmail.com).

# GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

DSDI has two methods for contributing to support the mission of education about our ancestor Signers of the Declaration of Independence. The first method is the 1776 Legacy Society. Membership in this Society is achieved by leaving a portion of your estate to DSDI. The second method is to make donations during the annual appeal, dues collection or any other time of the year that is convenient.

## 1776 LEGACY SOCIETY

Five members have included a gift to DSDI in their wills.

Hope Middleton Wood  
 James Herbert Alexander  
 Rieman McNamara, Jr  
 Elizabeth C. McNeilly  
 Roger M L Schmitt

In addition, Lynda Carol Dresser, a member who passed away in November 2022, left DSDI money in her will that is restricted to supporting efforts to remember her Signer John Hart.

## ANNUAL APPEAL

Donations from April 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

Thank you to the members of The Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence that have so generously participated in the Annual Appeal. Your gifts are most important and will enable the Society to continue all its programs, including research and education while preserving the legacy of our forefathers. Each report of the Annual Appeal presented in the Spirit '76 reports on donor activity since the last issue of the Spirit '76. This report spans the three months of the Annual Appeal covering the period from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. As such, it includes appeal donations for the 2023–2024 campaign and a little over \$2,000 was received in the three month period.

PATRIOTS		
John C. Glynn Jr.	George Meredith Bergen	Thomas Marshall Gresham
Luke Marshall Gresham	Katherine McNeilly	Nancy McBride Wark
BELL RINGERS		
Barbara Teter Greeley	Margaret Fisk Genvert	Timothy Craig Kohart
Richard Edgar Robinson	Richard Lee Miller	Clarence W Senn, Jr
Sharon Marie Schmelling	Peter Warren Brubaker	Mary Sommerville Hitchcock
Peter Carlin Stockett	Frederick J Wilson	Nancy King Waites
Claiborne Thornton Marshall	Thomas Bradford Johnson	Lauren Nye Johnson
Allison Nancy Johnson	Barbara Lipscomb Hunt	Thomas Pelham Curtis
Mary S. Reid	John Otis Miller	Douglas Macon Valentine
Danielle DeGain Cross	Donna De Gain Gonzalez	Derek J. DeGain
	Donald Edward DeGain	



# GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

## SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Thank you to the members of The Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence that have so generously participated in the Scholarship Fund. Your gifts are most important and will enable the Society to continue the scholarship program. This report spans the Scholarship Fund donations from April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, and about \$500 was received.

## SONS and DAUGHTERS OF LIBERTY

Patricia Goldrick Yakimo, Jr.

## BELL RINGERS

Paypal Giving Account



# 250<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION

- ▶ Although our 250th Celebration is two years away, plans are in the works for a memorable event in Williamsburg, VA in October 2026.

Members are asked to take a look at the gravesite of their Signer. Are any repairs or cleaning needed? This committee has funded repair and conservation of the John Morton Monument at the Old Swedish Burial Ground in Chester, PA.

Members can promote and participate in our "Sounds Of Liberty" by ringing of the bells and reading of the names of the 13 states and the respective Signers of each state on the 4th of July. See our website for more information on this program.

Could you write an article for your local newspaper about your Signer or other Signers from your state? Our website has wonderful information that you can use, but please be sure to acknowledge where you got it.

What a great opportunity we have to talk and educate the public at the local level within your town, county or state and keep the memory of the 56 Signers alive!

*Barbara Greeley  
Second Vice President-General  
Chair, 250th Celebration Committee*

# DSDI REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

## PHILADELPHIA, PA MEETING July 3, 2024

11 New Senior Members:		
<b>3851LM</b>	Garnett Berkeley Edmunds, Jr.* 6014 St. Andrews Ln. Richmond VA 23226-3211	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>3852LM</b>	Camilo Alexander Mason* 451 84th St. Brooklyn NY 11209-4711	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 10
<b>3853LM</b>	Lillian Parrish Henderson* 414 Casaloma Drive Forest VA 24551-1702	Thomas Nelson Jr. - 8
<b>3854LM</b>	Charlotte Swain Beecher* 363 Main Street New Canaan CT 06840-5903	John Morton - 10
<b>3855</b>	Zahra Jasmine Walker* 721 Old Dairy Rd. Wake Forest NC 27587-4501	John Hart - 10
<b>3856LM</b>	Pauline Louise Singer* 9417 View Point Lane Knoxville TN 37922-6544	Richard Stockton - 10
<b>3857LM</b>	Charles Joseph Wahlig* 432 Fairtree Dr Severna Park MD 21146-3112	John Hart - 11
<b>3858</b>	Marguerite R. Creel 1100 Hawk Hollow Lane Wake Forest NC 27587-5855	Francis Hopkinson - 8
<b>3859</b>	William David Maxey 107 Twin Oaks Ct. Fortson GA 31808-4479	Arthur Middleton - 9
<b>3860</b>	Catherine McCoy Driscoll 211 Gun Club Rd. Richmond VA 23221-3322	Carter Braxton - 9
<b>3861</b>	Lori Jain Harris Franklin 8458 State Road Steelman MO 65077-1276	John Hart - 9
<p><b>* Junior Upgrade</b> The above candidates have met the genealogical requirements for membership into our Society. I move that we accept their applications for Senior Membership in the Society.</p>		
9 New Junior Members:		
<b>J1704LM</b>	Lively Topol Emich 38 Martin Ln. Englewood CO 80113-4827	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>J1705LM</b>	Pace Lee Emich 38 Martin Ln. Englewood CO 80113-4827	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>J1706LM</b>	Fred Francis Emich 38 Martin Ln. Englewood CO 80113-4827	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>J1707LM</b>	Finnegan Lee Rust 801 Maple Glen Ln. Wayne PA 19087-4727	Benjamin Harrison V - 10

<b>J1708LM</b>	Porter Francis Rust 801 Maple Glen Ln. Wayne PA 19087-4727	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>J1709LM</b>	Stella Jules Rust 801 Maple Glen Ln. Wayne PA 19087-4727	Benjamin Harrison V - 10
<b>J1710</b>	Annelly Blake Maxey Twin Oaks Ct. Fortson GA 39211-5946	Arthur Middleton - 9
<b>J1711</b>	Lee Braxton Driscoll 211 Gun Club Rd. Richmond VA 23221-3322	Carter Braxton - 10
<b>J1712</b>	Joseph Carrington Driscoll 211 Gun Club Rd. Richmond VA 23221-3322	Carter Braxton - 10

These candidates have met the genealogical requirements for membership into our Society. I move that we accept these applications for Junior Membership in the Society.

#### Additional Membership Changes:

##### 4 Reinstatement:

#	Name	Date	Signer
<b>1625</b>	Thomas Nelson Page Johnson III	18 May 2024	Thomas Nelson Jr.
<b>2956</b>	Mary Herndon Nordmann	01 Jun 2024	Benjamin Harrison V
<b>2381</b>	Sara Jeannine Saunders Robertson	26 May 2024	Benjamin Franklin
<b>2863</b>	Zoe Elizabeth Osterman	18 May 2024	Benjamin Harrison V

##### 1 Resignation:

#	Name	Date	Signer
<b>3835</b>	Connor James Sisson	1 Jun 2024	Abraham Clark

##### 3 Deaths reported this period:

#	Name	Date	Signer
<b>2435LM</b>	Katherine Wilson McNeilly	19 May 2024	John Hart
<b>2264LM</b>	Shirley Favier	23 Apr 2024	John Hart
<b>1273</b>	Diane A. Trinter	18 Dec 2023	John Morton

(Prayer to be read at the General Meeting) **Remember these thy servants, O Lord, according to thy gracious mercy, and having opened to them the gates of larger life, grant them an increase in knowledge and love of thee, that they may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. Amen**

##### New Senior Member Applications by Signer:

Carter Braxton	1	Arthur Middleton	1
Benjamin Harrison V	1	John Morton	1
John Hart	3	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	2
Francis Hopkinson	1	Richard Stockton	1

Seniors		Juniors
1222	Total Active Membership, Last Report	230
4	New Members (does not include Junior upgrades)	9
0	New Supplements (does not increase # of Members)	0
7	Junior Transfer to Senior	-7
-1	Resignations	0
4	Reinstatements	0
-3	Deaths	0
11	Total Net Added this Report	2
1233	Total Membership, this Report	232

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2024-2025

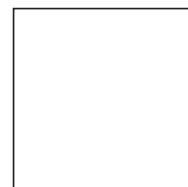
Name	Ancestor
Madison Sisson	Abraham Clark
Elizabeth Barrow	Arthur Middleton
Victoria Barrow	Arthur Middleton
Lucy Court	Benjamin Harrison V
Elizabeth Zakas	Benjamin Harrison V
Richard Edmunds	Benjamin Harrison V
Garnett Edmunds	Benjamin Harrison V
Andrew Ehlers	Benjamin Harrison V
Thomas Ehlers	Benjamin Harrison V
Katherine White	Carter Braxton
Sean Bowman	Francis Lewis
Joseph Falcone	George Read
Jake Bainbridge	John Hart
Justin Bainbridge	John Hart
Grace Barrett	John Hart
Emma Barrett	John Hart
Hunter Clements	John Hart
Benjamin Mayhew	John Hart
Tyler Mayhew	John Hart
Rory Wahlig	John Hart
Charles Wahlig	John Hart
Zahra Walker	John Hart
Caroline Beecher	John Morton
Charlotte Beecher	John Morton
Katherine Gleason	John Morton
Josh Morton	John Morton
Lauren Sperry	John Morton
Reilly Stromberg	John Morton
Allison Hubbard	John Witherspoon

Name	Ancestor
Theresa Ramsay	John Witherspoon
Isabella Ramsay	John Witherspoon
Clara Ramsay	John Witherspoon
John Witherspoon	John Witherspoon
Caroline Witherspoon	John Witherspoon
Seina Dowgiewicz	Josiah Bartlett
Sophia Davis	Lewis Morris
Ryane Farrell	Philip Livingston
Margaret Long	Philip Livingston
Andrew Harrison Peatross	Philip Livingston
Kannon Zdimal	Philip Livingston
Peyton Elise Gresham	Richard Henry Lee and Robert Morris
Brady Glynn	Richard Stockton
Pauline Singer	Richard Stockton
Griffin Yandell	Richard Stockton
Lucy Martin	Robert Morris
Eliot Paynter	Robert Treat Paine
Oliver McDermott	Roger Sherman
Jonathan Waldmann	Roger Sherman
Alexander McLaurine	Thomas Heyward Jr.
Thomas McNamara	Thomas Heyward Jr.
Benjamin McKenna	Thomas McKean
Ethan Burke	Thomas Nelson Jr.
Paige Nelson Swensen	Thomas Nelson Jr.
Stephanie Nelson	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Palmer WrigleyStratton	William Floyd and John Morton Jr.
Cabell Pasco	William Hooper

# D.S.D.I.

Jamie Singer  
9417 View Point Ln  
Knoxville, TN 37922-6544

*Address Service Requested*



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Founded July 4, 1907

The First Page in  
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**The Declaration  
of Independence**

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- ▶ Logging in to the society's website [www.dsdi1776.com](http://www.dsdi1776.com) is easy even if you don't already have credentials. Use the "Lost your password page" to set up a password. Enter your email address and click "Get New Password." If your email address is in our membership database, you will receive an email with further instructions. If your email is not recognized, we may not have an email address for you, or we may have an old email address. In this case, please use the "Contact Us" page to send the DSDI Webmaster a message that you need assistance logging in.