

Philadelphia  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 May 1955 3:00 P. M.

48th ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE  
SOCIETY OF THE  
DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, Incorporated  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ROOM, INDEPENDENCE HALL

The meeting was called to order by the President-General, Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr.

The Society prayer was read to solemnize the opening of the session.

It was moved, seconded and approved that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with, since they were mailed to all members.

The President-General explained that, due to the restoration work now in progress, we were not meeting in the Assembly Room where the Declaration was signed. He also told of his correspondence with the superintendent of the National Independence Hall Historical Park and our request that future meetings of our Society should be held in the Assembly Room. The director of the restoration work described the work being done, particularly in the Assembly Room.

The President-General spoke of the antique show in White Plains, N. Y., and the display of an original portrait of William Paca exhibited by David Hollander of Riverdale, New York.

REPORT OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The President-General gave a resume of activities during the past year.

REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENT-GENERAL, DR. THOMAS MCKEAN DOWNS

No report.

REPORT OF HISTORIAN-GENERAL, MISS SALLIE SPOTSWOOD BEACH

No report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL, MRS. J. HOWARD PATTERSON

Number of new members	5	(1 Life)
Number of new Junior members	10	(1 Life)
Number of re-instatements	2	
Resignation withdrawn	1	
Deaths	4	

REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL, WILLIAM MCKENDREE SCOTT

The Treasurer-General reported, as of April 30, 1955, a balance on hand of \$4,793.59, (consisting of cash \$1,357.06, two \$500 U.S. Treasury

bonds, and 15 shares of American Telephone and Telegraph \$2,436.53) after disbursements from May 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955 of \$2,126.95. This compares with a balance of \$4,649.79, April 30, 1954.

#### REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMM.

Miss Mildred Washington Lee reported our scholarship student, Mr. Taylor F. Turner, of Fredericksburg, Va., at the University of Virginia has written a very interesting and satisfactory account of himself, expressing his appreciation of the assistance given him. The Board has authorized the continuation of this assistance.

#### RESTORATION PROJECT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL PARK

Attention was called by the President-General to the painstaking and reverent restoration project of the National Independence Historical Park, as evidenced by the work on the Assembly Room in Independence Hall. He noted that the Federation of Women's Clubs subscribed over \$200,000.00.

#### REPORTS OF STATE GOVERNORS

New York Mrs. Axford and Mrs. Goodsell reported that the New York Society held its Annual Meeting the end of March and elected officers. Twelve new members were admitted. The meeting of the State Society was held at Abigail Adams House, Headquarters of the Colonial Dames of America in New York, and was well attended. Early in May the New York Society held a Cocktail Reception for new members.

New Jersey No report.

Pennsylvania Mrs. J. Howard Patterson reported a meeting was held in Philadelphia regarding the tour in Chester County on Sunday, May the 15th which includes Church Services in the morning at the Dilworthtown Presbyterian Church, a tour of a section of the Brandywine Battlefield, and Birmingham Meeting House. Lunch at the house of Mr. and Mrs. John Niel Adams "Dunregan", West Chester, followed by a visit to Longwood Gardens.

Virginia The President-General reported that the 1955 fall meeting will be held at Richmond, Virginia, October the 22nd.

North Carolina No report.

District of Columbia No report.

Georgia Mrs. William Clifton Carson sent regrets.

#### REPORTS OF GOVERNORS AT LARGE

Miss Mildred W. Lee No report.

Miss Emily G. Hopkinson No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Trumbull Painting of Signing of Declaration of Independence A picture of the signing of the Declaration of Independence a treasured old color-litho engraving reproduction of the original by Trumbull hanging in the Capitol in Washington, was presented to the Society by Mr. William Cook Fitch of New York and a letter from Mr. Fitch was read by the President-General, Mr. Goodsell. A motion was made and approved instructing the Secretary-General to express to Mr. Fitch the appreciation of the Society and an amendment to the motion provided that a suitable plate with Mr. Fitch's name be affixed to the frame of the picture. The picture is temporarily in safe-keeping at the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and it is intended to see that Mr. Fitch's desire to see it hung in Independence Hall will be carried out.

Certificates of Membership Mrs. J. Howard Patterson reported on the cost of a plate for a new certificate of membership and a motion authorizing Mrs. Patterson to act in her discretion regarding the plate was approved.

Gift to Powel House A motion to donate \$25.00 to the Powel House, Philadelphia, through the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks was duly moved, seconded and so ordered.

Francis Hopkinson Plate Mr. Thomas Graham reported that a search was being made for a picture of the Francis Hopkinson plate removed from his grave in Christ Church Burial Grounds by vandals early in the spring and also the name of the manufacturer, in order that the plate may be exactly duplicated if the funds are available to do so. It was moved by the Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Axford that a letter be addressed to the Francis Hopkinson Public School expressing the appreciation of the Society for the generous contribution made by the pupils towards the replacement of this plaque.

Resolution on the Death of General March The following resolution was approved, having been proposed by the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Axford. The Secretary-General is instructed to forward this resolution to Mrs. Peyton C. March, the widow of General March: Resolution included in Appendix.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS The Nominating Committee reported the nominations; as recorded in the Appendix. Motion was duly proposed and seconded that the nominations be closed and the officers for 1955-1956 were unanimously elected.

The Nominating Committee for 1956-1957 was appointed and approved, to consist of the following:

Miss Cecelis H. Simmons, Swarthmore, Pa.  
Miss Cornelia Livingston Van Rensselaer Strong, New Brunswick  
Mrs. Edward B. Walker, Richmond

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

The President-General, Mr. Goodsell, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the officers and members of the Society for their support and cooperation during the past year.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Thomas Graham, read the Declaration of Independence and, on the calling of the names of the Signers, the following descendants arose:

George Read	- 1	John Hart	- 5	William Faca	- 1
Oliver Wolcott	- 2	Josiah Bartlett	- 1	John Morton	- 3
Philip Livingston	- 1	John Witherspoon	- 2	Samuel Adams	- 1
Richard Henry Lee	- 1	Francis Hopkinson	- 2	John Penn	- 1
Benjamin Franklin	- 4	William Floyd	- 1	George Ross	- 1
		William Ellery	- 2		

The name was read of Charles Duane Williams, a descendant of Benjamin Franklin, who died on the S. S. Titanic to save the lives of others.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved and at 4:20 P.M., May 14, 1955 the 48th Congress of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Graham, Secretary-General.

## *APPENDIX*

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc.

Report of the Treasurer-General

May 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955

Balance on hand May 1, 1954

Cash in City Bank, Washington, D.C.	\$	1213.26	
(Of this amount 365.34 in Bi-Cen. Fund and 500.00 U.S. Bond)			
U.S. Treasury Bond		500.00	
U.S. Treasury Bond		500.00	
15 Shares A.T. & T. Stock		2436.53	4649.79
			<hr/>

Receipts May 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955

Interest and Dividends		160.00	
Miscellaneous		1.75	
Dues and Enrollment Fees		2109.00	2270.75
Total			<hr/> 6920.54

Disbursements May 1, 1954 to April 30, 1955

Printing		1142.45	
Officers' Expenses		129.48	
General Expenses ( Steel Cabinet )		98.98	
Donations, including scholarship		350.00	
Expenses Philadelphia Congress		112.65	
Expenses Williamsburg Meeting		197.40	
Expenses New York Meeting		95.99	2126.95
<u>Balance on hand April 30, 1955</u>			<hr/> 4793.59

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in City Bank		1357.06	
(Of this amount 471.04 in Bi-Cen. Fund and 500.00 U.S. Bond)			
U.S. Treasury Bond		500.00	
U.S. Treasury Bond		500.00	
Scholarship Fund (15 shares A.T.&T.)	\$	2436.53	4793.59
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*Wm M. Scott*  
Treasurer-General

I have examined the above report, and find it correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*Hugh L. Postles*

Report of Delinquent Members

April 30, 1955

Current Dues .....42

One Year Back ..... 7

Two Years Back ..... 3

William Thompson Henry, Jr. #1047

Miss Lucy Shelton Moffet #1004

Mrs. Robert Humphreys Welsh #1050

**Descendants of the Signers of the  
Declaration of Independence**  
**INCORPORATED**

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4 of the  
Constitution, the Nominating Committee has submitted to  
the Board of Governors the following nominations for office  
for the term 1955-1956.

**President-General**  
Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr.  
"Zenacre," Purchase Road, White Plains, N. Y.

**First Vice-President-General**  
Thomas McKean Downs, M.P.  
"Green Peace," Mt. Pleasant Road, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

**Second Vice President-General**  
Miss Frances Ann Wisler,  
Wister Street, Germantown, Pa.

**Cheptain-General**  
The Reverend Francis Hopkins Craighill, Jr.,  
Brunn Parish Church, Williamsburg, Va.

**Honorary Chaplains-General,  
Vacant**

**Registrar-General**  
Mrs. J. Howard Paltvren,  
Box 309, West Chester, Pa.

**Honorary Historian-General**  
Miss Sallie Spotswood Beach,  
3615 Carolina Avenue, Richmond 22, Va.

**Historian-General**  
Miss Natalie L. Densmore,  
160 Chester Pike, Ridley Park, Pa.

**Treasurer-General**  
William McKendree Scott,  
4487 "Q" Street, N.W., Washington 7, D. C.

**Assistant Treasurer-General**  
John P. Buene,  
33 Grandview Circle,  
Woodome Heights, Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.

**Secretary-General**  
Thomas Graham,  
2129 Delancy Place, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

**Assistant Secretary-General**  
Clinton Burgess Asford,  
"American Banker," 32 Stone Street,  
New York 4, N. Y.

Emily G. Hopkins  
M. Addison Thomas  
Edward B. Welker  
Chairmen  
Nominating Committee

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS the Giver of All Good has called to his eternal rest our distinguished fellow citizen and esteemed fellow member,  
General Payton Conway March

AND WHEREAS in his entire career as an officer of the United States Army, a loyal citizen of our Nation, and as a member, always interested in the aims of our Society, General March exemplified Peace with Honor, expressed so imperishably in the Declaration of Independence

AND WHEREAS his life is an inspiration to us to carry on our own lives in like patriotic devotion of our Country, its Strength and its Independence

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, in Congress assembled at Independence Hall, honor the memory of General March, and do offer our consolation and sympathy to his bereaved family and friends.

VOTED this Fourteenth Day of May, Nineteen Fifty Five,

Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., President General

George Lafayette Washington, Secretary General

Independence Hall  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
May 14, 1955