

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

Special Board Meeting 22 October 1955

A Special meeting of the Board of Governors of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence together with the officers of the Virginia State Society was held in the Virginia House, Windsor Farms, Richmond, Virginia on the above mentioned date. The meeting was called to order by the President-General Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr. at 11:10 A.M. Those present were Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., Marsden C. Smith, William McK. Scott, Mrs. Edward B. Walker, Edward B. Walker, Mrs. William Lowndes Peple, Mrs. Joseph Fairbanks, Mrs. J. Howard Patterson, Miss Emily G. Hopkinson, Mrs. Dwight H. Day, W. Byrd Harrison, Jr., Milton Addison Thomas, Mrs. Andrew J. Brent and Thomas Graham.

The Society prayer was offered by the Chairman in the absence of the Chaplain-General.

Since the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board had been mailed to all members it was moved, seconded and approved that the reading of these minutes be dispensed with.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL was received and approved.

New Members

- #1125 Anne Emlen Graham Minich (Mrs. Henry N.F. Minich) SIGNER: George Ross  
Jr. #200. #612 Father, Mr. Thomas Graham, 3338 Martha Custis Dr.,  
#1126 Eugene Massie Valentine Alexandria, Va.  
Jr. #247 #11 G. Mother Katherine Shore Braxton Valentine SIGNER: Carter Braxton  
#329 Father Corbin Braxton Valentine  
1600 Chamberlane Ave., Richmond, Va.
- #1127 Evelyn Sophia Keesey Bullock (Mrs. John A. Bullock) SIGNER: John Morton  
#773 Sister Anna Greenlee Keesey Jeffries Jr.)  
14 Palmere Lane, Wallingford, Pa.
- #1128 Lillian Sarah Schlosbon Stromberg (Mrs. Oscar Henry Stromberg, Jr.)  
Niece of #773 Anna Greenlee Keesey Jeffries SIGNER: John Morton  
127 W. Forestview Road, Parkside, Chester, Pa.
- #1129 Ernest Draper Howard SIGNER: Josiah Bartlett  
155 San Anselmo Ave., San Francisco, Cal.  
Business address 315 Montgomery St., San Francisco 4, Cal.
- #1130 Gertrude Vandergrift Hoak (Mrs. Ralph Allen Hoak) SIGNER: John Hart  
3324 Walnut St., Harrisburg, Pa.

New Junior Members

- # 401 Ann Randolph Bradley SIGNER: Thomas Jefferson  
#1124 Father Marion Howard Bradley
- # 402 Mary Stuart Pierson b. Feb. 9, 1953 SIGNER: John Hart  
G.G.Mother #181, G.Mother #260  
#954 Mother Ella Dalzell Wilson Pierson  
(Mrs. Leland Stanley Pierson Jr.)
- # 403 Peter McKendree Scott b. Nov. 28, 1951 SIGNER: Benjamin Franklin  
G. Father #608 William Mck. Scott  
#786 Father William Mck. Scott Jr.
- # 404 Pattison Fulton b. Apr. 16, 1944 SIGNER: Francis Hopkinson
- # 405 Judith Hood Fulton b. Feb. 5, 1947 " "
- # 406 Millicent Barnard Fulton b. Dec. 29, 1948 " "
- # 407 Joan Murdock Fulton b. June 6, 1953 " "  
Mother Mrs. James M. Fulton

# 408	Toinette Tucker b. Jan. 26, 1943	<u>SIGNER</u> : Francis Hopkinson
# 409	Stephanie Tucker b. Aug. 16, 1945	" "
# 410	Gay Gilpin Tucker b. May 9, 1949	" "
# 411	Carl Tucker 3rd. b. Oct. 8, 1951	" "
	G.G.Mother #44, G.Mother #45 Mother Mrs. Carl Tucker	
# 412	Douglas Collins Rawnsley b. Sept. 20, 1955	<u>SIGNER</u> : Francis Hopkinson
	G. Mother #756, Mother #870 Mrs. Melville Collins Rawnsley	
# 413	Deborah Elizabeth McCormick b. Mar. 18, 1955	<u>SIGNER</u> : John Morton
	G. Mother #272 Mrs. Horace R. McCormick	
# 414	John Ahu Bullock 3rd. b. Dec. 6, 1950	<u>SIGNER</u> : John Morton
# 415	Donald Henry Stromberg b. Mar. 26, 1935	<u>SIGNER</u> : John Morton
# 416	Richard Hanson Stromberg b. July 11, 1940	" "
# 417	Sallie Morton Stromberg b. Oct. 19, 1941	" "
# 418	Deborah Jane Stromberg b. Mar. 8, 1953	" "
	G. Aunt #773 Mother #1128	
# 419	Theo Pennsy Howard b. Dec. 25, 1946	<u>SIGNER</u> : Josiah Bartlett
# 420	Bartlett Draper Howard b. Nov. 11, 1947	
	G.G.Mother #15, Father #1129 Ernest Draper Howard	
# 421	Joan Harriet Allen	<u>SIGNER</u> : John Hart
	Father #1087 Col. John Hart Allen	
# 422	Ellen Jael Walker b. August 21, 1935	<u>SIGNER</u> : Thomas Heyward, Jr.
# 423	Sarah Elizabeth Walker b. July 27, 1942	" " "
# 424	Thomas Heyward Walker b. August 25, 1947	" " "
	#1037 Father Pinckney Heyward Walker	

#### DEATHS

# 519	Ethel Moore Anderson	July 20, 1953
# 448	Mary Morris Ostrander Adams (Complimentary Member)	September 29, 1955
# 37	William Thompson Henry (Complimentary Member)	
# 399	Armistead Churchill Young, Sr.	

REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL was received and approved. The report will be appended to the minutes of the general meeting.

In the absence of Miss Mildred W. Lee the Treasurer-General read a very interesting and appreciative letter from our scholarship student at the University of Virginia, Mr. Taylor F. Turner, Jr. of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

A letter of resignation was read from #869 Mrs. Lewis Lerick Harrison, but it is understood that she has reconsidered. The President-General will write to Mrs. Harrison regarding her dues. Due to the very serious illness of #492, Miss Justine Bayard Erving, a motion was made and approved to waive her dues and the Treasurer-General will so notify Miss Erving.

REPORT OF STATE GOVERNORS deferred to the general meeting.

REPORT OF BULLETIN COMMITTEE due to the absence of Mr. Axford no report was made.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The President-General discussed the subject of the winter meeting to be held in New York. There was also some discussion from the floor as to the high cost of New York hotel accommodations. Mr. Edward Brownell Walker moved that the winter meeting to be held in New York shall be a dinner meeting and that the President-General be empowered to make whatever arrangements he deems proper. The motion was voted upon and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter from the Philadelphia Civil Defense offering a speaker was referred to Mrs. Patterson to answer, by the President-General.

No action was taken on a letter received from the World Affairs Council which might indicate they solicited our endorsement.

Mrs. Patterson reported solicitation for membership by the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. It was felt that no benefit would accrue from such a membership.

The President-General discussed the subject of the year book and pointed out that while the by-laws had been amended to publish the same on a five year basis, the last issue dated 1953 is so cluttered with additions and changes that a motion might be in order to return to the publishing of the book on a three year basis, which would call for a new edition in 1956. At the suggestion of the President-General that a committee be appointed to look into a new form of year book and the cost of same Mr. Walker suggested that the Committee should consist of the President-General, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer-General and Mr. William B. Harrison. It was so ordered.

As there was no further new business to come before the meeting a motion to adjourn was made and approved and at 12.20 P.M. the Board adjourned to inspect the beautiful Virginia House. After the house and grounds had been seen and greatly admired by the visitors a delicious luncheon was served. No account of this occasion can be concluded without paying tribute to Mrs. Day, Mrs. Brent, and the officers and members of the Virginia State Society for their hospitable and painstaking efforts to make this a memorable occasion for all of us.

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It might be noted that Virginia House is constructed from the ancient Priory of the Holy Sepulchre, at Warwick, England, popularly known through the centuries as "The Priory". The original structure was built in 1125 by the first Earl of Warwick. Queen Elizabeth was entertained in The Priory in 1572, and the stone set in the front wall, just over the second-story window at the west end, bears the arms of that great sovereign in commemoration of this great event. On May 31st, 1929 Virginia House was conveyed to the Virginia Historical Society the then owners Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Weddells, who brought the house from England, retaining a life interest therein.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Graham*

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Secretary-General