

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

Special Board Meeting 18 February 1956

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 New York State Society, was held in the Crane Suite, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, N.Y. on the above mentioned date. The meeting was called to order by the President-General Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr. at 12:30 P.M. Those present were Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., Mrs. Katherine S. J. Goodsell, Edward R. Finch, Jr., Dr. T. McKean Downs, Mrs. J. Howard Patterson, Thomas Graham, C. B. Axford, John P. Duane, Mrs. William H. Suttentfield, and Miss Natalie L. Densmore.

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

As 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.

Reports of President-General, Vice-President-General and Historian-General deferred to General Meeting of the Membership.

REPORT OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL was received and approved.

New Members

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| #1131 Merwyn Lewis Lafferty, Jr.<br>R.F.D., Lewes, Delaware                              | <u>SIGNER</u> : John Morton       |
| #1132 Merritt Harrison Taylor, Jr.<br>Cedar Lane, Villa Nova, Pa.                        | <u>SIGNER</u> : Benjamin Harrison |
| #1133 David Walker Taylor<br>Firethorne Lane, Villa Nova, Pa.                            | <u>SIGNER</u> : Benjamin Harrison |
| #1134 Sylvia Hill Harrison Egan<br>(Mrs. John Egan)<br>c/o Aramco, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia | <u>SIGNER</u> : Benjamin Harrison |
| #1135 Joy Augusta Rambach Castle<br>9 Main Street, Stonington, Conn.                     | <u>SIGNER</u> : John Hart         |
| #1136 Roger Sherman Boardman<br>17 Washington Place, Bloomfield, N. J.                   | <u>SIGNER</u> : Roger Sherman     |
| #1137 Gilbert Kunkel Lamb<br>100 Walworth Ave., Scarsdale, N. Y.                         | <u>SIGNER</u> : Roger Sherman     |

New Junior Members

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|---|-----------------------------------|
| # 425 Arthur Barnard Havermeyer b. Oct. 24, 1955<br>Mother, Frances Barnard O'Connor Havermeyer<br>G.G.Mother #44, G.Mother #45 | <u>SIGNER</u> : Francis Hopkinson |
| # 426 James Murdock Fulton, Jr., b. Dec. 8, 1955<br>Mother, Ann Hall O'Connor Fulton<br>G.G.Mother #44, G.Mother #45            | <u>SIGNER</u> : Francis Hopkinson |
| # 427 Edward Joseph Fairbanks, Jr., b. Oct. 18, 1938  | <u>SIGNER</u> : Josiah Bartlett   |
| # 428 Joan Andrea Fairbanks, b. July 26, 1948<br>Father, Edward Joseph Fairbanks<br>G.Mother #434                               | <u>SIGNER</u> : Josiah Bartlett   |

# 429	Margaret Caroline Fairbanks, b. June 3, 1939	<u>SIGNER</u> : Josiah Bartlett
# 430	Ellen Marie Fairbanks, b. April 27, 1942	<u>SIGNER</u> : " "
# 431	Joseph McMillen Fairbanks, b. May 25, 1945	<u>SIGNER</u> : " "
# 432	Robert Merrill Fairbanks, b. October 9, 1947	<u>SIGNER</u> : " "
	G.Mother #434, Father Philip Merrill Fairbanks 5701 Gloster Rd., Woodacres, Md. or Washington, D.C.	
# 433	Elizabeth Ida Suttentfield, b. December 6, 1955	<u>SIGNER</u> : John Witherspoon
# 434	Carter Braxton Dew	<u>SIGNER</u> : Carter Braxton
# 435	Nancy Coalter Dew	<u>SIGNER</u> : Carter Braxton
# 436	Letty Randolph Dew	<u>SIGNER</u> : Carter Braxton
	Father #942 William Braxton Dew	

President-General reported the names of the above, as having been elected to membership by the Board.

#### DEATHS

# 496	Sarah E. Erving King	November 7, 1955
# 313	Francis Hopkinson Coffin	November 13, 1955
# 492	Justine Bayard Erving	November 29, 1955
# 714	Anna Rutherford Peabody Biddle, Jr.	January 4, 1956
# 981	Philip Schuyler Church	January 21, 1956

#### REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL

The report was read in the absence of the Treasurer-General by the Assistant Treasurer-General, Mr. John P. Duane, and was received and approved. It is appended to the Minutes of the General Meeting.

REPORT OF STATE GOVERNORS was deferred to the general meeting.

#### REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Secretary-General read the report and it was approved as read. The report will be appended to the minutes of the general meeting.

#### REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

In the absence of Miss Mildred W. Lee, Chairman, the President-General read her report. He also read a splendid letter from Mr. Tayler F. Turner, Jr., of Fredericksburg, Va., our scholarship student at the University of Virginia, in which Mr. Turner expressed his appreciation of our assistance and his pleasure in meeting with us this past October in Richmond. This is Mr. Turner's last year at the University of Virginia unless he continues in Post-Graduate work. There is a new application from Mr. Alexander Darragh, 1314 Bedford Road, 30 Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, for his daughter Cynthia, a descendant of John Hart.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The Secretary-General reported on the Rush Homestead and the following resolution was offered by the President of the New York State Society, Mr. Edward R. Finch, Jr., and was unanimously approved.

That the Secretary-General is authorized to employ Pennsylvania Legal Counsel to establish a Benjamin

Rush corporate or trustee non-profit tax exempt organization to receive funds and property from interested persons and organizations to purchase or acquire by legal means title to the Benjamin Rush homestead, lodge, improvements and 5 acres, more or less surrounding the same with entrance driveway as a memorial in perpetuity.

#### NEW BUSINESS


The Secretary-General was authorized to purchase a wreath each year for Benjamin Franklin's grave on the anniversary of his birth or the Sunday nearest thereto, at which time various patriotic organizations join in commemorative services.

Mr. Edward R. Finch, Jr., President of the New York State Society proposed that the State Society have a Life Membership. The President-General expressed the opinion that the State Societies should set their own dues. It was moved and seconded and approved that there was no objection to the New York State Society having a Life Membership for approximately \$75.00 provided that a Life Membership is already held in the National Society.

The President of the Pennsylvania State Society, Mrs. J. Howard Patterson, reported on the plans for the Annual Congress to be held in Philadelphia May 12th and 13th. The President-General expressed satisfaction with the arrangements. Notices will be mailed to the general membership regarding this occasion and it is earnestly hoped that there will be a large attendance as this is the 250th Anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin and also it should be of interest to all to see the progress of the work in the restoration of Independence Hall and the vast amount of research work now being undertaken.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.35 P.M. at which time a very delicious luncheon was served to the members of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary-General