

GENERAL MEETING of the Members  
of the Descendants of the Signers  
of the Declaration of Independence, Inc.  
at the Colony Club, New York  
15 February, 1958

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., the President-General, at 2.30 P.M.

In the absence of the Chaplain-General the President-General offered the Society Prayer.

As the Minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to all members, it was moved, seconded and approved that the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with.

The President expressed the thanks and appreciation of the members to Mrs. Graeme Donald for extending to the Society the hospitality of the Colony Club.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL:

The Society was represented by the President-General and Mrs. Percy H. Goodsell at the Annual Service for the Patriotic Societies of New York in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Sunday, November 24, 1957. The President-General represented the Society at the annual luncheon of the Huguenot Society of America at the Hotel Pierre on December 7th, at a reception tendered by the Officers and Board of Managers of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York on December 20th, 1957, and as a guest of honor at the Annual Founders Day Luncheon of the National Society of New England women on January 23, 1958. On Sunday, January 26th, he represented the Society and acted as marshal of the colors at the joint Vesper Service of the Colonial Dames of America and the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Invitations were received by the President-General to a reception tendered by Governor and Mrs. Edmund Summers Hawley of the New York Society Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, December 12, 1957, to the opening of the Hall of Fame for illustrious Georgians and the Unveiling of Busts of Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall and George Walton in the State Capitol in Atlanta on November 25, 1957, and to the New Year's reception of the Colonial Dames of America on January 6, 1958.

Sons of the Revolution Service at the Central Presbyterian Church, Park Avenue at 64th Street. Cards for Washington's Birthday celebration.

The President-General spoke of the coming Washington Birthday celebration of the Sons of the Revolution at Frances Tavern.

REPORT OF THE BOARD:

Many of the matters summarized in the following reports were reported at the Board meeting held in the morning.

REPORTS OF VICE-PRESIDENTS-GENERAL:

None present.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL:

Mrs. Patterson reported that four new members were admitted. Eight Junior Members were elected. There was one resignation and four deaths. All standing, a silent prayer was said for those departed members.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER-GENERAL:

Attention was called to the fact that largely due to the heavy expense of the Williamsburg-Jamestown meeting our balance was under that of the previous year. A copy of the Treasurer-General's report is appended to these Minutes.

SUMMARY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Miss Mildred Lee sent her regrets at not being able to attend the meeting, but stated that a letter had been received from Miss Cynthia H. Darragh, our scholar at Wayne State University, that she was getting along well.

REPORTS OF GOVERNORS:

Regrets were received from Mrs. Jefferson R. Edwards of Rhode Island, Mr. Alexander Hodge Scott of Connecticut, Mrs. William C. Carson of Georgia, Mrs. Joseph Fairbanks of the District of Columbia and Commander Hugh Gwynn Postles, Governor-at-Large.

NEW YORK: Mr. Clarkson reported for Mr. Finch that the Society is in good financial shape and that a meeting would be held in March at the headquarters of the Colonial Dames of America.

NEW JERSEY: Miss Cornelia L. V. R. Strong reported the application of a new member.

PENNSYLVANIA: Mrs. J. Howard Patterson reported on the plans for the Annual Congress to be held in Philadelphia in May, and an interesting day in Chester County on Sunday.

MARYLAND: Miss Juliana T. Paca reported two new members and spoke of the very excellent arrangements that are being made for the October meeting at Annapolis and the Eastern Shore. Every member who can possibly do so should reserve Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th, 1958, for one of the most interesting meetings the Society has planned to date. Miss Paca deserves our praise and thanks for the fine work she has done in arranging this most interesting program.

GEORGIA: A letter was received from Mrs. William C. Carson telling of the activities of the Georgia Society, Dames of the Court of Honor and regretting that she could not be at the meeting.

Miss Emily G. Hopkinson, Governor-at-Large reported on the plans for the dinner on Saturday, May 17, following the Congress.

Mrs. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Governor-at-Large made no report although her attendance at the meeting was gladly noted by all.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Axford asked for items of news interesting to the membership. It is felt the Bulletin is of great value and should be supported by our members whenever possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miss Hopkinson called attention to the interesting little book "They Signed for Us" published by Duell, Sloan & Pierce.

The Secretary-General reported on the progress of the Independence Mall and the Independence National Historical Park. While it may be another eight or ten years before the historical buildings and landmarks are completely restored the demolition work and landscaping of the open areas should be well completed by 1960.

Franklin's birthday was celebrated as usual with many representatives from patriotic, political and civic organizations. The cavalcade visited Christ Church Burial Grounds where along with the representative of the President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Mayor of the City, a wreath was laid on the grave by the Secretary-General in memory of the Signers. The cavalcade proceeded to the ancient Spanish-Portuguese Cemetery of Urikvai-Israel where ceremonies were held honoring the memory of Hyman Solomon, a friend of Benjamin Franklin and along with Robert Morris one of the financiers of the Revolution. From there we went to the Franklin Institute where the United States Marines took over and then to The Poor Richard Club for a luncheon and the awarding of a Gold Medal to Mr. Colbert, President of the Chrysler Corporation.

Mention was also made of the Fourth of July celebration at Independence Hall on which committee we have three members Miss Hopkinson, Miss Lee and the Secretary-General, who is also Chairman of the Patriotic Groups.

The matter of the preservation of the Benjamin Rush Homestead is being actively worked on and further report will be made at a later meeting.

Mr. Edward R. Finch, Jr., President of the New York State Society, called attention to the fact that all State Societies should keep accurate records and Minutes of their meetings for future reference. He also pointed out that as the wheels of progress roll on our Society should keep well abreast of the proposed demolition of landmarks and historic buildings.

Mr. Allen G. Wellman, First Vice-President of the New York State Society, who had the Society included in the New York Social Register, suggested that other cities with a substantial membership in our Society should request the Society be added to the Social Register's list of recognized clubs and societies.

The President-General suggested a membership committee, one of whose functions should be to follow up the junior members when they come of age.

The Junior membership can be a good source of new members. For one reason or another many juniors do not become Senior members.

The Roll Call was read and the following Descendants answered to the names of their ancestors:

Samuel Adams	1	Francis Hopkinson	3
Roger Sherman	2	John Hart	2
Oliver Wolcott	4	Benjamin Franklin	4
William Floyd	1	George Ross	1
Philip Livingston	2	Samuel Chase	1
Francis Lewis	4	William Paca	1
Robert Morris	1	Carter Braxton	1
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In accordance with a resolution passed by the Board of Governors on July 3, 1912, the following name is to be carried forever upon the roll of the Society:

#78 Williams, Charles Duane Benjamin Franklin

Died on the S.S. Titanic, April 14, 1912, to save the lives of others.

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3.30 P.M.

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A very enjoyable cocktail party to which the members brought a number of guests, was held at the Colony Club following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Graham*

A P P E N D I X

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc.  
Report of the Treasurer General

May 1, 1957 to February 1, 1958

Balance on hand May 1, 1957

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in Provident Tradesmens Bank & Trust Co. (Of this amount \$698.09 reserved for the Bi-Cen. Fund)	\$1,294.57	
U. S. Treasury Bond reserved for the Bi-Cen. Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond	500.00	
Scholarship Fund 15 shares of A. T. & T.	2,436.53	\$4,731.10

Receipts May 1, 1957 to February 1, 1958

Interest and dividends	120.00	
Dues and enrollment fees	2,500.00	
Miscellaneous	2.10	2,622.10
Grand Total		<u>\$7,353.20</u>

Disbursements May 1, 1957 to February 1, 1958

Printing	1,174.10	
Officers Expenses	180.91	
Expenses of Philadelphia Congress	133.58	
Expenses of Williamsburg Meeting	452.08	
Contributions, including (1) scholarship	340.00	
Miscellaneous	42.32	\$2,322.99
		<u>\$5,030.21</u>

Balance on hand February 1, 1958

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in Provident Tradesmens Bank & Trust Co. (Of this amount \$322.15 reserved for the Bi-Cen. Fund)	1,092.74	
U. S. Treasury Bond reserved for the Bi-Cen. Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond reserved for the Bi-Cen. Fund	500.94	
U. S. Treasury Bond	500.00	
Scholarship Fund (15 shares of A.T.& T.)	2,436.53	\$5,030.21

  
Treasurer-General

Remarks of the Historian-General regarding  
Mr. Joseph Jeffries, the husband of our  
member, Mrs. Joseph Jeffries.

"I have no report as such as Historian-General.  
I have been collecting items of local historical  
significance, but there is nothing to report of  
significance. I should appreciate it, however,  
if someone could report on the passing of  
Mr. Joseph Jeffries, husband of our member,  
Mrs. Joseph Jeffries. Mr. Jeffries' death  
occurred in January. You will no doubt recall  
that Mr. Jeffries was the gentleman who provided  
our Society with so much material on the Morton  
Homestead and the grave of the Signer in Chester.  
He personally purchased the flag and displayed it  
over the grave of John Morton. His patriotism,  
interest in American history, and respect for  
our Society and its leadership in the honoring  
of the Signers were only a few of his many  
fine qualities."

*Natalie C. Densmore*

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

**Officers, 1958-59**

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4, of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for office for the term 1958-1959.

- President-General**  
Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr.  
"Tenacre," Purchase Road, White Plains, New York
- First Vice-President-General**  
Thomas McKean Downs, M.D.  
"Green Peace," Mount Pleasant Road, Bryn Mawr, Pa.
- Second Vice-President-General**  
Richard Blackburn Tucker  
Kingston Hall, Port Haywood, Virginia
- Honorary Chaplain-General**  
The Reverend Ernest A. Harding  
Old Christ Church, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Chaplain-General**  
The Rev. Francis Hopkinson Craighill, Jr.  
Route #3, Hendersonville, N. C.
- Registrar-General**  
Mrs. J. Howard Patterson  
P. O. Box 309, West Chester, Pa.
- Honorary Historian-General**  
Miss Sallie Spotswood Beach  
3615 Carolina Avenue, Richmond 22, Va.
- Historian-General**  
M. Addison Thomas  
Manheim Garden Apt., Philadelphia 44, Pa.
- Treasurer-General**  
Wentworth Seton Simmons  
114 Yale Avenue, Swarthmore, Pa.
- Assistant Treasurer-General**  
Miss Natalie L. Densmore  
110 Chester Pike, Ridley Park, Pa.
- Secretary-General**  
Thomas Graham  
2129 Delancey Place, Philadelphia 3, Pa.
- Assistant Secretary-General**  
Clinton Burgess Axford  
"American Banker," 32 Stone Street, New York 4, N. Y.

Sincerely yours,  
John P. Duane  
Juliana Tilghman Peca  
Elsie E. Densmore, Chairman  
Nominating Committee