

General Meeting of the  
Members of the Descendants  
of the Signers of the  
Declaration of Independence, Inc.  
at Congress Hall, Philadelphia  
17 May, 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.

Mr. Melford O. Anderson, Superintendent of Independence National Historical Park was introduced by the President-General and gave an interesting account of the research and restoration work done on Independence Hall and the Park in the past year.

The President-General then called attention to the great historical importance of Congress Hall where the Second Continental Congress met and commissioned General Washington Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, and where Washington and Adams were later inaugurated President.

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.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL:

The President-General read an invitation from the Citizens Committee for the Celebration of Freedom Week, for our Society to participate and present our colors at the ceremony, to be held at Independence Hall on the Fourth of July.

The President-General announced the names of a Membership Committee appointed for the Philadelphia area: Mrs. Richard G. Park, Mrs. Francis Von A. Cabeen, Mrs. Harold H. Morris, Mrs. J. Howard Patterson, Miss Mildred W. Lee, Miss Emily G. Hopkinson, Miss Mary W. Graham.

Mr. Goodsell expressed thanks to the Penna. State Society and the Entertainment Committee, led by Mrs. Patterson; the Phila. Society for the Preservation of Landmarks; the Superintendent of the Independence National Historical Park Project, and the Secretary-General.

On Washington's Birthday the society was represented at the 175th Annual Dinner of the New York Society of the Cincinnati at the Union Club by the President-General.

On Thursday, April 24th, the President-General represented the Society as a guest at the Annual Meeting of the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America, and on May 5th at the Annual Garden Party of the Colonial Dames of America in New York City.

Invitations were received to the reception of the President-General of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in Washington and to the Annual Congress of the Children of the American Revolution. The President-General acknowledged with thanks the generous gift from Mr. William C. Fitch.

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:

Dr. T. McKean Downs was present but had no report to make.

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL:

Mrs. Patterson reported two new members: #1175 Douglas Graham Smyth, 27 East 63rd Street, New York 21, New York and #1176 Mrs. Edward George Stuart, Warren Lane, Meadowbrook Heights, Charlottesville, Virginia; two new Junior Members: #471 Jaqueline Marshall Braxton, #472 Merwin Carter Braxton. Two deaths, # 87, Alexander Coxe Williams, March 15, 1958 and #335 Jasper Eaton Dickinson, March 26, 1958. All standing, a silent prayer was said for those departed members.

REPORT OF HISTORIAN-GENERAL:

The Historian-General Miss Densmore made a very interesting report that will be published in the next edition of the Bulletin.

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL:

The Treasurer-General summarized his report and the full report is appended to these Minutes.

SUMMARY OF REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Miss Lee reported that our Society has one student Cynthia Darragh, of Grosse Pointe, Michigan in her sophomore year at college. She is due to graduate in June 1960. She receives high marks and we have very satisfactory reports of her progress.

We have numerous applications for scholarship awards when she finishes and the decision will be difficult. The Pennsylvania Society again generously donated \$25.00, which makes our scholarship \$275.00 a year.

REPORT OF GOVERNORS:

NEW YORK: Mrs. Goodsell reported for the New York State Society four new members and no deaths bringing the total membership to fifty-six. Mr. Robert Livingston Clarkson, Jr. is the new President of this Society.

The President-General spoke of the meeting at the Headquarters of the Colonial Dames.

MARYLAND: Miss Paca reported on the arrangements for the fall meeting in Annapolis and the Eastern Shore of Maryland on October 11th and 12th. The Program as announced by Miss Paca should provide one of our most interesting meetings in one of the most beautiful and historic sections of the country. Notices will be sent to the membership at a later date.

REPORT OF BULLETIN COMMITTEE:

No report. It should be stated however, that the Committee welcomes any contributions of news or matters of general interest to the membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was noted that we should make our regular contribution of \$25.00 to the Land Marks Society for the Powel House.

The President-General will inquire regarding replacement of the insignia of the Society at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and report at the next meeting.

The Secretary-General reported that a resolution drawn up by the Land Marks Society and signed by the same, also the Philadelphia County Medical Society and ourselves has been presented to the City of Philadelphia through Judge Harold Saylor requesting the City to take whatever steps necessary to preserve this historic land mark. Judge Saylor has referred the matter to Mr. Grant Simon, Chairman of the Committee on Historic Landmarks, who will designate the Rush Homestead a Historic Landmark, worthy of preservation. Further developments will be reported at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Samuel Duffield Hopkins, Jr., our member from Florida, who had come the longest distance to attend the meeting, took the chair and Mr. John Duane read the report of the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations and as the nominations were unanimously approved Mr. Hopkins instructed the Secretary to cast a single vote for the entire ticket.

The President-General expressed his gratitude to the membership for their confidence and support and promised to give his best efforts to the Society in the coming year.

The President-General called for nominations for the Nominating Committee. The following were nominated: Miss Juliana Tilghman Paca, Chairman; Mrs. J. Howard Patterson, Miss Cornelia Livingston Van Rensselaer Strong.

Mr. Clinton Burgess Axford, a Descendant of John Hart, read the Declaration of Independence.

The Secretary-General read the list of Signers and those descendants present rose and answered to the names of their illustrious ancestors.

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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As there was no further new business to transact the meeting was adjourned at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Graham*  
Secretary-General

APPENDIX

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc.  
 Report of the Treasurer General  
 May 1, 1957 to April 30, 1958

Balance on hand May 1, 1957

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in Provident Tradesmens Bank and Trust Co. Swarthmore, Pa.	\$1,294.57	
(Of this amount \$698.09 reserved for the Bi-Cen Fund)		
U. S. Savings Bond-2½% reserved for the Bi-Cen Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond - 2½%	500.00	
Scholarship Fund 15 shares of A. T. & T.	2,436.53	\$4,731.10

Receipts May 1, 1957 to April 30, 1958

Interest and Dividends	170.00	
Dues and Enrollment fees	2,587.00	
Miscellaneous	2.10	\$2,759.10
Total		\$7,490.20

Disbursements May 1, 1957 to April 30, 1958

Printing	1,195.10	
Officer's Expenses	215.68	
Expenses Philadelphia Congress	133.58	
Expenses Williamsburg Meeting	452.08	
Expenses New York Meeting	187.86	
Contributions, including (1) scholarship	340.00	
General Expenses	59.57	
Miscellaneous	5.00	\$2,588.87
		\$4,901.33

Balance on hand April 30, 1958

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in Provident Tradesmens Bank and Trust Co. Swarthmore, Pa.	669.43	
(Of this amount \$326.50 reserved for the Bi-Cen Fund)		
U. S. Saving Bond 2½% reserved for the Bi-Cen Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond - 4% reserved for the Bi-Cen Fund	500.94	
U. S. Treasury Bond - 2½%	500.00	
Scholarship Fund (17 shares of A. T. & T.)	2,730.96	\$4,901.33

*Wentworth A. Simmons*  
Treasurer-General

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

*Natalie A. Denamore*

RESOLUTION

Mrs. Frederick J. Wilson

WHEREAS, in God's good time, he has called to her eternal reward our loyal and much loved member, Mrs. Frederick J. Wilson, descendant of Signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Hart.....

AND WHEREAS, in her long and beautiful years, Mrs. Wilson gave so many hours to the aims, work and activities of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, of which she was an early member and which she served well and long as Registrar-General and as a Governor at Large.....

AND WHEREAS, in her life, Mrs. Wilson exemplified the virtues of strong patriotism, good citizenship, warm friendship, firm faith and gracious gentleness, thus honoring the ideals to which the Signers and their Descendants are forever dedicated.....

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, in Annual Congress assembled in Independence Hall, May 17, 1958, do here express our deep sorrow by reason of the death of Mrs. Frederick J. Wilson, and do extend to her family sincere sympathy and deep condolences.

Signed:

Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr.  
President-General

Thomas Graham  
Secretary-General

Adopted unanimously May 17, 1958  
at Independence Hall