

GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS  
OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF  
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.

IN THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER  
STATE CAPITOL, ANNAPOLIS, MD.

11, October, 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.

The President-General presented Governor McKeldin to the membership. The Governor welcomed the Society to the Old Senate Chamber and stated that the room was rarely opened, but it was felt that our Society was eminently qualified to meet in this historic and sacred room. The Governor spoke of the occasion when George Washington resigned his commission as General of the Army in this room and how in his humility Washington displayed his greatness. The Governor also called attention to the fact that the furnishings of the room were original and that the Descendants were privileged to occupy the same chairs and desks that were used by General Washington and the members of the Congress.

The President-General thanked the Governor for his hospitality and address of welcome.

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

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL:

The President-General expressed the thanks of the Society to Miss Juliana Tilghman Paca, Governor and Mrs. Theodore McKeldin, Mrs. Arthur A. Houghton and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Schiller for their generosity in opening their homes to us. The President-General further remarked that on June 30, 1958, the Society participated in the ceremonies in Washington Square, Philadelphia, marking the opening of Freedom Week. Thirteen members of the Society read messages from the Governors of the thirteen original states and raised the flags of those States, and a wreath was laid on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution.

The President-General expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. William C. Fitch for his generous contribution toward the expense of our Maryland meeting.

The President-General called attention to the article appearing in the September number of "The Freeman" entitled "Would you have signed it?" by Ralph Bradford. This publication is published by The Foundation For Economic Education, Inc., Irving-on-Hudson, New York.

REPORT OF THE BOARD:

Many matters summarized in the following reports were discussed in detail at the meeting of the Board.

REPORTS OF VICE-PRESIDENT-GENERAL:

Dr. Downs had no report. Mr. Tucker had written letter to the Secretary-General regretting that on account of illness he was unable to attend the meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL:

Mrs. Patterson reported the election of 7 new members, 6 new Junior members, 6 deaths. All standing, a silent prayer was offered for those departed members.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE TREASURER-GENERAL:

A copy of the Treasurer-General's report is appended to these Minutes.

The Treasurer-General reported one Life Member, Mr. Pennington Satterthwaite, Jr., three resignations, Dr. Owen Jones Toland, Mrs. Andrew H. Christian, and James N. McKean, and seven members dropped for non-payment of dues.

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

A report from Miss Mildred W. Lee is appended to these Minutes. Letters of thanks and appreciation were received from Cynthia H. Darragh who is giving up the Scholarship and from Dwight Day, Jr., now enrolled at Hampden Sydney College, our new scholar, who is doing so well in his courses.

REPORTS OF GOVERNORS:

NEW YORK: The President-General reported that Mr. Clarkson, the new President of the New York Society, could not be present as he was attending a meeting of a College of which he is Chairman of the Board.

PENNSYLVANIA: Miss Densmore reported that as no meeting had been held there was no report.

DELAWARE: Mrs. Wilson was not present.

MARYLAND: Miss Paca thanked all for coming and spoke of the arrangements for the Tour of the Eastern Shore.

VIRGINIA: The new President, Mr. Marsden Smith, spoke about plans for the Virginia meeting in the fall of 1959. It is suggested that the members plan to visit Virginia this coming October. It is probably the most beautiful time of the year and the Virginia meetings are always a great success.

NORTH CAROLINA: No report.

GEORGIA: Mrs. Carson forwarded correspondence and newspaper clippings regarding the discovery of a portrait of Button Gwinnett. This information has been sent to Mr. Axford for publication in the Bulletin. Mrs. Carson was most complimentary about the arrangements for the Maryland meeting. We are all disappointed she was unable to attend.

REPORTS OF GOVERNORS-AT-LARGE:

Mrs. Walker had no report.

Miss Hopkinson reported for Miss Lee on the Freedom Week celebration in addition to the opening day ceremonies at Washington Square which the Society participated in. We were also represented at the exercises at Independence Hall on the Fourth of July, at which His Excellency Robert Silver Cruys, Belgian Ambassador to the United States and the Honorable George V. Allen, Director, United States Information Agency, spoke. Thomas Graham, Jr., carried the Society flag.

A letter from Mr. William Goldman, Chairman of the Citizens' Freedom Week Committee is appended hereto, together with the copy of Miss Lee's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

The President-General read a letter from Mr. Postles giving the necessary steps for the restoration of our insignia and plate at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which had been removed by vandals. The President-General will arrange for this restoration.

It is the aim of the Society to honor the graves of the Signers on the Fourth of July. The Society is grateful to Captain F. McMaster, U.S.N. Ret. for so remembering the graves of Colonel James Smith and Philip Livingston at York, Pennsylvania.

A resolution prepared by Mr. Axford has been printed and delivered to Governor and Mrs. McKeldin by Miss Paca. They are largely responsible for the success of the Annapolis meeting. A copy is appended hereto.

NEW BUSINESS:

The President-General called attention to a book recently written by Donald Barr Chidsey, entitled "July 4, 1776" and published by the Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y. It is a small book, but one that every member should have in his library.

The President-General spoke of the movement to have Lebanon, Connecticut, declared a National Historical Site and place it under the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. During the Revolution Lebanon was the principal nerve center of all New England for the recruitment of Soldiers and supply of material. It was voted to lend the Society's endorsement to this effort.

The Secretary-General stated that the Historical Commission of Philadelphia had recently certified "Byberry", the ancestral home of Dr. Benjamin Rush, an Historical Site. This will preserve it from immediate destruction and efforts will continue to be made to have the city or some interested organization purchase the property from the present owners and thus assure its permanent preservation.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 3.25 P.M. At the conclusion of the meeting Miss Roberts kindly told the members the history of the State House and described many interesting historical points in connection with this beautiful historic building.

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The Governor's Lady, Mrs. McKeldin, graciously entertained the members and their guests at tea at beautiful Government House, the home of Governor and Mrs. Theodore McKeldin.

A delicious banquet was held in Carvel Hall preceded by a cocktail party. Dr. Richard D. Weigle, PHD, President of St. John's College, Annapolis, spoke on St. John's College: The Liberal Arts tradition from the Revolution to the present. His talk was intensely interesting.

The Roll Call was read and the following Descendants answered to the names of their ancestors: Samuel Adams 3, Oliver Wolcott 2, Richard Stockton 1, John Witherspoon 2, Francis Hopkinson 2, John Hart 4, Benjamin Rush 1, Benjamin Franklin 2, John Morton 4, George Ross 1, Thomas McKean 1, Samuel Chase 1, William Paca 5, Richard Henry Lee 4, Benjamin Harrison 5, Carter Braxton 5, John Penn 1, Thomas Heyward, Jr. 2, Thomas Lynch, Jr. 1, Arthur Middleton 2, George Walton 1.

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.

The following day, Sunday, the members toured the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the caravan headed by a large bus generously contributed by Mr. John Paca. Church Services were held at Wye in the church so beautifully restored by Mr. Arthur Houghton. A visit was made to Wye plantation, owned and restored by Mr. Houghton and originally the home of William Paca. After a good lunch at the Tidewater Inn, Easton, a visit was made to Wye House the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Schiller, for many generations the home of the Lloyds. This is truly one of the most beautiful estates in America and the house with its furnishings and the family cemetery a reminder of all that was best in Colonial times.

As a result of Miss Paca's hard work and efficient planning the two days' meeting was one of the most interesting and best attended the Society has had.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Graham*  
Secretary-General

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 TO OCTOBER 1, 1958

Balance on hand, May 1, 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-Centennial Fund)		
U. S. Saving Bond-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % reserved for Bi-Cen. Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond-4% " " " "	500.94	
U. S. Treasury Bond-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	500.00	
Scholarship Fund (17 shares of A. T. & T.)	<u>2,730.96</u>	<u>\$4,901.33</u>

Receipts May 1 to September 30, 1958

Interest and Dividends	\$ 44.50	
Dues and Enrollment Fees	1,836.00	
Miscellaneous	31.30	
Southern Meeting (October 11-12)	<u>2.75</u>	<u>\$1,914.55</u>
Total		<u>\$6,815.88</u>

Disbursements May 1 to September 30, 1958

Printing	\$ 667.85	
Officers' Expenses	50.47	
Expenses of Philadelphia Congress (Deficit over Receipts)	110.87	
Contributions, including one scholarship	215.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>59.25</u>	<u>1,103.44</u>
September 30, 1958 - Total Assets		<u><u>\$5,712.44</u></u>

Balance on hand October 1, 1958

Accounted for as follows:

Cash in Provident Tradesmens Bank and Trust Co., Swarthmore, Pa.	\$1,480.54	
(Of this amount \$418.30 reserved for the Bi-Centennial Fund)		
U. S. Saving Bond-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % reserved for Bi-Cen. Fund	500.00	
U. S. Treasury Bond-4% " " " "	500.94	
U. S. Treasury Bond-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %	500.00	
Scholarship Fund (17 shares of A. T. & T.)	<u>2,730.96</u>	<u>\$5,712.44</u>


*Wentworth S. Simmons*  
 Wentworth S. Simmons  
 Treasurer-General

D. S. D. I. REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Miss Cynthia H. Darragh, of 1314 Bedford Road, Grosse Point Park 30, Michigan, has been the recipient of our scholarship for the last 2 years.

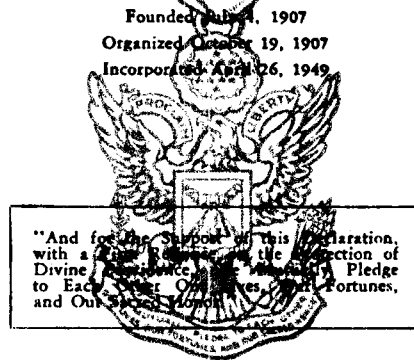
She wrote me she had graduated from her Sophomore year at Wayne State University, and now her family had to move to some suburb of Chicago, and she wasn't sure what college she could enter to finish her course. Later she wrote me that she and her parents had decided to give up the scholarship, and I should award it to someone else. As Mrs. Dwight Day had applied way back last fall for the scholarship for her son Dwight Day, Jr. and it was nearly September 1st when I heard from Cynthia Darragh that she was giving up the scholarship, I wrote to our President, Percy Goodsell and he said to award it to Dwight Day, Jr. for this winter 1958-59.

Dwight Day, Jr., is now at Hampden-Sydney College. He had already been advanced to 2nd year English, and also advanced in Spanish, so we trust he will be a credit to our Society!

  
Mildred W. Lee

Ch. Scholarship Com.

# Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence



To His Excellency  
The Governor of the State of Maryland  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT McKELDIN

WHEREAS, on December 23, 1783, General George Washington stood, his head bared in deepest respect, in the Senate Chamber of the State House of Maryland, before the Congress of the United States, and, in his Greatest Moment, deferentially surrendered his Commission as Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States which, under his genius had won our Glorious Revolution;

AND WHEREAS, in so doing, General Washington proved himself First in Peace, as he had proved himself First in War, and, by putting behind him the temptors who would have made him king, proved himself greater than Caesar and greater than Napoleon, who made the victories of their Armies the stepping stones to dictatorship;

AND WHEREAS, by this action setting Patriotism above Ambition, the Father of Our Country established forever the Principles of Our Republic: that the Military is the servant of the Civil, and that all the Powers of Government are subject to elected Representatives of the People:

AND WHEREAS, on October 11, 1958, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence were accorded the unforgettable and inspiring privilege of conducting their Autumnal Congress within the walls of this ineffably Sacred Shrine of our Struggle for Independence, the Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House, where the Freedom of Our Citizens and the Sovereignty of Government by Representatives elected by the Free and Democratic Choice of the People were eternally established:

AND WHEREAS, we, the living, lineal direct offspring of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence of 1776, are indebted unrepayably to His Excellency, Governor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, of the Free State of Maryland, for this unequalled privilege of sitting where the Members of our Congress sat in 1783, with their hats upon their heads, as would have Kings, and solemnly received General Washington's bow of submission and the surrender of Commission by which he became once again Citizen Washington, and forever First in the Hearts of His Countrymen:

AND WHEREAS, the invitation of His Excellency, Governor McKeldin, to sit in the State House Senate Chamber, was equalled in graciousness by the privilege extended to our members by his lovely lady, Mrs. McKeldin, to enjoy the Hospitality of her charming Home, Government House, at tea, a pleasure for which we are deeply grateful:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that we, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, do hereby express and engross our thanks to Citizen and Governor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin from the depths of our beings;

AND THAT we pledge a lasting Memory in our Hearts of the Hour of Inspiration and of Ennobling Thoughts which the opportunity to meet in the Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House, and to hear its story from the tongue of Governor McKeldin in person, afforded us:

AND THAT THIS RESOLUTION of our Gratitude be spread upon the minutes of this meeting, and, duly ratified, be dispatched to His Excellency, Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin, Governor of Maryland, as a small measure of the Sincere Affection and Deep Appreciation, which his high esteem for the Ideals of our Nation and the Principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, has won for him among our members, Descendants, lineally and inexorably linked with the blood of the 56 Patriots who in 1776 pledged their lives, their fortunes and their Sacred Honor for our Liberty, in signing that great Document of Freedom, the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America.

President-General

Secretary-General



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CITIZENS' FREEDOM WEEK COMMITTEE

MAYOR RICHARDSON DILWORTH  
*Honorary Chairman*

WILLIAM GOLDMAN  
*General Chairman*

RALPH W. PITMAN  
*Treasurer*

ROOM 201, CITY HALL  
PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.

Municipal 6-9700  
Ext. 952

July 10, 1958

Mr. Thomas Graham, Sr.  
2129 Delancey Place  
Philadelphia, Pa.


Dear Mr. Graham:

We are most appreciative of your efforts as chairman of the Patriotic Organizations Committee and want to thank you for your splendid assistance in organizing the members of your society to participate in the ceremony at Washington Square on June 30.

There is no question that the observance at the tomb of the unknown soldier of the Revolutionary War was one of the highlights of Freedom Week. Much of the success of that event was due to your dedicated efforts, and we are very grateful to you.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

  
William Goldman  
Chairman

*Celebrating the 182nd National Observance of Independence Day*

This was by far the finest and most dignified patriotic celebration I ever attended, and the best carried out. A descendant (wherever possible) of a Signer of each of the 13 original states read a message from the Governor of that state, then taking their place by the flag-pole of their state the flag was raised by a marine guard, and after Mr. Adam's very fine speech, the President and the 13 descendants who participated, were invited by the Penn Mutual Life Insurance for a delicious luncheon in their building nearby. Mr. Goodsell made a fine speech thanking the Insurance Co. for their generous hospitality and Mr. Adam responded with a very cordial greeting of welcome. It was enjoyed by all!



MILDRED W. LEE