

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

14, February, 1959

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 approved that the reading of the Minutes be dispensed with.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-GENERAL:

The President-General expressed the thanks and appreciation of the Society to Mrs. Graeme Donald for affording us the hospitality of the Colony Club, and the Society's profound appreciation of Mrs. Kean's generosity in entertaining the members and their guests at her home.

The President-General represented the Society at the Annual Luncheon of the Huguenot Society of America at the Hotel Pierre on December 6th, 1958. Mr. Stockton represented the Society at the Annual Church Service of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York at St. James Church on Madison Avenue on January 11, 1959. The President-General, who again had been invited to serve as Marshal, was prevented by illness. An invitation was received to the Annual Thanksgiving Service for the Patriotic Societies at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on Sunday, November 28, 1958. The President-General was also invited to attend the Annual Founders Day Luncheon of the National Society of New England Women on January 22, 1959.

The President-General reported that a gold insigne has been purchased and will be sent to Arlington to replace the one stolen from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier a year after the original had been placed there in 1933. A brass plate will indicate that it is presented by this Society. The President-General acknowledged the generous contribution of Mr. William C. Fitch to the New York meeting. The President-General reported a request from the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission for appropriate recognition of the 150th birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln. He also reported receipt by the Society of a lithographed reproduction of the Declaration of Independence, together with Trumbull's painting of the Signing, copies of which are available in lots of 100 at \$1.00, and individually at \$2.00 each from American Picture Service, 2932 Cortland Place, Washington 8, D.C.

A letter from the Secretary-General was read by the President-General in which he reported that "Byberry", the birthplace of Dr. Benjamin Rush, Signer, had changed hands, but that the Historical Commission of Philadelphia had certified it an Historical Site, which would at least preserve it temporarily. Efforts are being continued to have the property acquired as a permanent Historical Monument.

The Secretary-General reported that Michael Francis Doyle, Esq., of Philadelphia, Chairman of the Lawyers' Committee for Congress Hall, has offered to seek the approval of the Secretary of the Interior for our return to the Assembly Room in Independence Hall for the meeting of our Annual Congress.

REPORT OF THE BOARD:

Miss Mildred Lee reported on the success of the Freedom Week celebration held last July in Philadelphia. She said our Society had been particularly honored in that we were the sole patriotic society invited to the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier in Washington Square. We were also represented at the ceremony at Independence Hall on the 4th of July, and Thomas Graham, Jr. carried our colors. This coming 4th of July we will participate in the dedication of the new flag with the 49th star for Alaska. This will be an historic occasion and it is hoped as many of our members as possible will be present.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL:

The President-General reported that due to illness Mrs. Patterson was unable to be present, but that the Board of Governors had approved the selection of five new members and one Junior member, also he announced the death of one member, #509 Helen Rutherford Peabody Satterthwaite on October 28, 1959. Mrs. Satterthwaite was a most loyal member of the Society for many years, and will be sadly missed. All standing, a silent prayer was said in her memory.

The President-General introduced one of our new members, Mr. Arthur Howell Gerhard, Jr., who was welcomed with applause.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER-GENERAL:

The report of the Treasurer-General was submitted in his absence by Miss Densmore, the Assistant Treasurer-General, and was approved as read. A copy of this report appears in the appendix to these Minutes.

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Miss Mildred Lee, Chairman, reported that our Scholar, Dwight Day, Jr., is doing well at Hampden-Sidney College.

REPORT OF GOVERNORS:

- NEW YORK: President Clarkson reported that the efforts of the New York members had brought nine new members into the Society. He also said he hoped that as many members as possible, would come to the reception and showing of the moving picture "The King and I" to be followed by a buffet supper at the home of Mrs. John Kean.
- NEW JERSEY: Miss Strong, Governor for New Jersey, reported that New Jersey members this past 4th of July, had placed wreaths on the graves of all Signers buried in New Jersey.
- MARYLAND: Miss Paca, Governor for Maryland, reported that one descendant had been admitted as a member. She reported on the huge success of the Fall meeting held at Annapolis and was rewarded with applause. She was happy to report that costs were kept down, thus avoiding a large deficit.
- VIRGINIA: Colonel Holt, Vice-President, reported the State Society now has 37 members. Plans are being made to hold the Fall meeting at Fredericksburg, Virginia, home of General Washington's Mother, near Stratford, ancestral home of the Lee family and also near Wakefield, where General Washington was born.

PENNSYLVANIA: Miss Lee, Governor-at-Large, spoke of the plans for the Freedom Week ceremony to be held at Independence Hall the 4th of July when the new flag with the 49th Star will be dedicated. As this will be an historic occasion and our Society will play a prominent part it is hoped that as many as possible of our members will be present. Miss Lee told how impressive was last year's ceremony at the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier in Washington Square when the flags of the 13 original colonies were presented by members of our Society who also read a message from the Governor of each of these thirteen States.

Miss Hopkinson reported that arrangements for the meeting in Philadelphia, May 16th, 17th were under way and the Sedgley Club in Fairmount Park had been engaged for our Annual Dinner.

NEW BUSINESS:

The President-General reported that he had discussed with Naval Officials the idea of our Society presenting a gift to the Aircraft Carrier Independence and it was moved by Mrs. O'Connor and seconded and unanimously voted to authorize the President-General to spend up to \$50.00 for a suitable gift. The President-General also said the matter of a plaque at Fort Schuyler in memory of General Philip Schuyler was being considered and we might join in this with other Patriotic Societies.

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There being no further business the President-General read the names of the Signers and 23 Descendants answered to their names: Roger Sherman 2, Oliver Wolcott 1, William Floyd 1, Philip Livingston 2, Lewis Morris 1, John Witherspoon 1, Francis Hopkinson 2, John Hart 3, Benjamin Franklin 3, Samuel Chase 1, William Paca 1, Carter Braxton 3, Arthur Middleton 1, Richard Henry Lee 1.

In accordance with a resolution 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 meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

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The evening's entertainment took place at the charming home of Mrs. John Kean, Lexington Avenue at 65th Street, attended by the members of the Society and their guests. Through the courtesy of Robert L. Clarkson, President of the New York State Society, a wide screen showing of "The King and I" was greatly enjoyed by all in Mrs. Kean's ballroom; following the moving picture a buffet supper was served and about sixty members enjoyed the gracious hospitality shown by our hostess, throughout the evening. The Society will be ever indebted to Mrs. Kean for a wonderful evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Graham
Secretary-General

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.
 REPORT OF THE TREASURER-GENERAL
 OCTOBER 1, 1958, to JANUARY 31, 1959

Balance on Hand, October 1, 1958

Accounted for as follows:

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|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Cash, Provident Tradesmens Bank & Trust Co., Swarthmore, Pa. | \$ 1,480.54 | |
| (Of this amount \$418.30 reserved for the Bi-Centennial Fund and \$2.75 for Southern Meeting, October, 1958) | | |
| U. S. Saving Bond-2½%, reserved for Bi-Cen. Fund | 500.00 | |
| U. S. Treasury Bond-4% " " " " " | 500.94 | |
| U. S. Treasury Bond-2½% | 500.00 | |
| Scholarship Fund (17 shares of A. T. & T.) Cost | <u>2,730.96</u> | \$ 5,712.44 |

Receipts, October 1, 1958, to January 31, 1959

| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------|
| Interest and Dividends | \$ 92.75 | |
| Dues | 190.00 | |
| Southern Meeting - Reservations and Contribution | 589.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | <u>2.00</u> | 873.75 |
| Total Receipts | | <u>\$ 6,586.19</u> |

Disbursements, October 1, 1958, to January 31, 1959

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|---|--------------|--------------------|
| Printing - Minutes, Invitations, Postage | \$ 323.64 | |
| Officers' Expenses | 50.32 | |
| Southern Meeting - Meals, Resolution, etc. | 721.86 | |
| (Deficit for The Southern Meeting - \$130.11) | | |
| Contribution - Gift to Scholarship Recipient | 5.00 | |
| Miscellaneous - Franklin Wreath, Dinner Refunds | <u>17.86</u> | 1,118.68 |
| Balance Remaining | | <u>\$ 5,467.51</u> |

Balance on Hand, January 31, 1959

Accounted for as follows:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cash, Provident Tradesmens Bank and Trust Co., Swarthmore, Pa. | \$ 1,235.61 | |
| (Of this amount \$427.80 reserved for the Bi-Centennial Fund) | | |
| U. S. Saving Bond-2½%, reserved for Bi-Cen. Fund | 500.00 | |
| U. S. Treasury Bond-4% " " " " " | 500.94 | |
| U. S. Treasury Bond-2½% | 500.00 | |
| Scholarship Fund (17 shares of A. T. & T.) Cost | <u>2,730.96</u> | <u>\$ 5,467.51</u> |

Wentworth S. Simmons
 Wentworth S. Simmons
 Treasurer-General

Natalie L. Densmore
 Natalie L. Densmore
 Ass't. Treas.-General

Report
2/14/59