

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF  
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.

BOARD MEETING  
Powel House, Philadelphia, Pa.

May 16, 1959

The meeting was called to order by the President-General, Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., at 11.05 A.M.

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

Those present were: Dr. T. McKean Downs, Miss Juliana T. Paca, Mr. Wentworth S. Simmons, Mrs. William H. Suttentfield, Miss Emily G. Hopkinson, Miss Natalie L. Densmore, Mrs. Henry Norris Platt, Miss Mildred Washington Lee, Mr. Milton Addison Thomas, Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., Mr. Thomas Graham, Mrs. J. Howard Patterson.

Attention was called to the fact that Miss Juliana T. Paca, our Governor for Maryland, attended the meeting held in New York on February 14, 1959.

In view of the fact that the Minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to all members of the Board, on motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the Minutes.

The reports of the President-General, Vice-Presidents-General, and the Historian-General were deferred to the meeting of the Annual Congress.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL:

Was received and approved.

NEW MEMBERS

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|-------|---|--------------------------|
| #1189 | Thomas Graham, Jr.<br>2129 Delancey Place<br>Philadelphia 3, Pa.  | Signer: George Ross      |
| #1190 | Dr. Edward H. Roberts<br>615 Stone Avenue<br>Talladega, Alabama   | Signer: Arthur Middleton |
| #1191 | Rear Admiral Dashiell Livingston Madeira, U.S.N., (Ret.)<br>163 East 81st Street<br>New York 28, New York | Signer: William Floyd    |
| #1192 | Eleanor Sherborne Hurry Kuhn<br>(Mrs. Jay C. Kuhn)<br>18 Dunecrest<br>Monterey, California<br>LIFE MEMBER | Signer: William Floyd    |



REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL was received and approved. The Treasurer-General read his report. A copy of the report is appended to the Minutes of the Annual Congress.

As of May 1, 1959, 40 members are behind in current dues. 23 members are 1 year behind.

REPORT OF STATE GOVERNORS:

The reports were deferred to the General Meeting of the Annual Congress.

REPORT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Miss Mildred Lee, the Chairman, reported that our student, Dwight Day, Jr. at Hampton-Sidney College was doing well and is taking five major subjects. He is especially proficient in languages. Mr. Day is greatly appreciative of our assistance and it was voted to continue this scholarship for Mr. Day.

The Secretary-General pointed out the high expense of a college education and the small amount of our assistance and asked for an increase. Due to the present state of our finances this was not approved.

REPORT OF BULLETIN COMMITTEE:

Mr. Axford, the Chairman, not being present, no report was made. It was approved however that the current edition of the Bulletin which has been in preparation for over a year should be published and then discontinued as the Minutes of the Society can be relied upon to furnish information of interest to the membership three times a year. The Secretary-General suggested that this considerable saving might be applied to the increase of our scholarship, but no action was taken by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS:

The President-General spoke of the importance of not raising our regular dues, but suggested that an increase from \$100.00 to \$150.00 should be made in the Life Membership. The Board approved both these recommendations and an amendment to the Constitution Article V, Section 3, will be proposed at the meeting of the Annual Congress.

The Secretary-General reported that Colonel Frank W. Melvin, Chairman, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission will throw the full weight of the Commonwealth behind our proposal to preserve "Byberry", the birthplace of Dr. Benjamin Rush, as an historical site. It has already been declared historically significant by the Philadelphia Historical Commission of which Mr. Grant M. Simon is Chairman. The Secretary-General reported on the annual Franklin Day Ceremonies, January 17, 1959 sponsored by the Poor Richard Club at which time along with a number of other organizations, he placed a wreath on the grave of Benjamin Franklin. The President of the United States, the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Mayor of Philadelphia were also represented in these ceremonies.

The Secretary-General spoke of the efforts of Michael Francis Doyle, Esq., through the Hon. Fred A. Seton, Secretary of the Interior, to have our Annual Congress returned to the Assembly Room in Independence Hall. He called attention to the Fourth of July or Freedom Week Celebration at Independence Hall and the important part the Descendants will play in this. A report in greater detail will appear in the Minutes of the Annual Congress.

NEW BUSINESS:

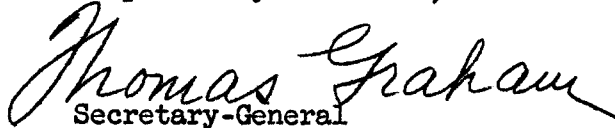
Representative Henry A. Reuss and Representative Frank Thomson, Jr. are authors of a bill in Congress to deny Federal funds to any program which, without at least some modification, would seriously damage or destroy sites and buildings of historical significance. The Secretary-General will write to these Congressmen approving their bill and it is suggested that our membership do likewise. It was approved that the matter be brought to the attention of the Annual Congress.

There being no further new business the meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

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As is customary following the meeting of the Board, a delicious luncheon was served in the beautiful dining room of the Powel House.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary-General