

**Fall Meeting**

**Members of the Descendants of the  
Signers of the Declaration of  
Independence, Inc.**

**National Archives**

**Washington, D. C.**

**October 6, 1962**

The meeting was called to order by the President-General, Mr. Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr. at 3:50 P.M.

The Society Prayer was omitted as it had just been offered at the Shrine of the Declaration of Independence.

The Secretary-General read the minutes of the previous meeting which was approved with correction.

The names of the nominating committee elected at the Annual Congress held in Philadelphia in May and not included in the minutes of that meeting were read by the Secretary-General: Mr. Edward Hopkinson, III, Colonel Henry Winston Holt and Mr. Robert Clarkson, Jr.

The President-General thanked Colonel Henry Winston Holt, Mrs. Edward B. Smoot and the other members of the Virginia State Society, Post No. 24 of the American Legion, The Archivist of the United States, Mrs. Henry Norris Platt and the Mount Vernon Ladies Association for arranging the various interesting events of our meeting.

He spoke of the Freedom Week observance in Washington Square in Philadelphia June 28, 1962 in which as usual our Society plays the principal part.

**REPORT OF THE BOARD:**

This was covered by the various reports of officers made at the meeting.

**REPORT OF VICE-PRESIDENTS-GENERAL:**

Rear Admiral Pyne was unable to be present and submitted no report. Mr. Marsden Smith was present and made a few interesting comments regarding the Society.

**REPORT OF REGISTRAR-GENERAL:**

Mrs. William Ward, III reported the election of six new Senior Members and one Junior Member and six deaths. All standing, a silent prayer was offered for our departed members.

REPORT OF HISTORIAN-GENERAL:

Mr. Thomas was present, but made no report.

REPORT OF TREASURER-GENERAL:

The Treasurer-General, Miss Natalie L. Densmore, reported as of September 30, 1962 total assets of \$8,865.05 with an operating cash balance of \$2,291.91. A copy of the full report is attached to the minutes of this meeting. Thirteen members were dropped for arrears in dues.

REPORT OF GOVERNORS:

Mr. Axford reported that the New York State Society was taking an active interest in the affairs of the Society.

Miss Paca reported that a large life-size portrait of Governor Paca, her signer ancestor, owned by the Maryland Historical Society, was in bad condition. Funds are now available for restoration which will be undertaken by staff members of the Walters Art Gallery. The portrait was painted by Charles Willson Peale. Colonel Holt remarked that the Virginia State Society was not only happy, but honored to sponsor this meeting in Washington-Alexandria. Our Society made a donation in 1961 towards a bust of Signer George Wythe to be placed in the State Capitol in Richmond. The project is being administered by the Colonial Dames. Necessary funds are on hand and the bust will be installed upon completion of the Capitol in 1963.

Mr. Walker reported for South Carolina.

Miss Emily Hopkinson reported as Governor-at-Large.

OLD BUSINESS:

The President-General read our resolution for a World's Fair to be held in Philadelphia in 1976, the bi-centennial of the signing of the Declaration. The Secretary-General remarked that the resolution had been read on the Floor of Congress by the Hon. Kathryn E. Granahan, the new Treasurer of the United States and it appeared in the Congressional Record.

Mr. Axford spoke of increasing the Scholarship Fund and the President-General suggested that the matter should be referred to the Finance Committee as it involved our holding of A.T. & T. stock.

NEW BUSINESS:

Colonel Holt proposed that the American Legion Post #24 receive a contribution of \$10.00 for our use of Gadsby's Tavern, Alexandria

for the meeting of the Board. He also proposed that the Secretary-General advise Mr. Postles and Major Scott that they were greatly missed at the meeting. Both proposals were unanimously approved.

The President-General spoke of rewording the resolution regarding Charles Duane Williams, who died on the S. S. Titanic.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary-General

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting was followed by a dinner at the Collingwood Restaurant at which Lt. Colonel Curtis Carroll Davis, USAR, spoke on the "Clandestine Enquirers: Espionage Down the Cycle of the Centuries". Sunday the members attended Christ Church, Alexandria, lunched at the Little Hatchet Inn, Mt. Vernon, and visited Mount Vernon as guests of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.