

MINUTES OF LUNCHEON MEETING of the  
Descendants of the Signers of the  
Declaration of Independence, Inc.  
Colony Club, New York, N. Y.

February 13, 1965

With more than 80 members and guests present, Mrs. John Kean, president of the New York State Society welcomed the meeting, and the Society's prayer was offered by Past President-General Percy H. Goodsell, Jr., Luncheon was enjoyed, - the usual delicious Colony Club cuisine and service being ours by courtesy of Mrs. Kean, who also made a personal gift of a delicious wine to add pleasure to the repast.

President-General Smith presiding, he called upon Mr. Goodsell to call the roll of the Signers. Members standing as their ancestors' names were heard, numbered:

Thornton .....	1	Hart .....	4	Harrison .....	1
Sherman .....	1	Franklin .....	2	Braxton .....	1
Livingston .....	2	Read .....	1	Rutledge .....	1
Morris .....	1	Chase .....	1	Heyward .....	4
Witherspoon .....	1	Paca .....	2	Middleton .....	3
Hopkinson .....	1	Rich'd Henry Lee..	1		

A vote was asked by President-General Smith on the amendment to the Constitution to clarify the question of reimbursement for the Assistant Secretary-General and Assistant Treasurer-General when acting in the place of the Secretary-General and Treasurer-General. The vote was unanimously ayes.

Historian-General Addison Thomas read an interesting and inspiring chapter from "America, America, America", a book of "Prose and Poetry about the Land, the People and the Promise," published by Franklin Watts. The chapter, "The Vision," told of the impressions of a western bound emigrant seeing the virgin forests of the Middle West after leaving Pennsylvania more than a century ago, as written by Conrad Richter.

President-General Smith called on Miss Juliana Paca, Governor for Maryland, to tell of the hope for saving the Carvel Mansion, ancestral home of the Pacas, from demolition. An effort is being made by the Maryland patriotic societies, to get the State to buy it, but the developer who now owns it wants \$450,000. On motion of Mr. Goodsell, the Society voted to endorse the movement to save the structure as a historical monument.

Speaker of the afternoon was Mr. Kennet Wells, president of Freedom Foundation, Valley Forge, who called upon the generation of those present at the luncheon to become leaders and contribute the time, effort and funds necessary to lead and finance perpetuation of the ideals which have made this country great.

"Ours is the only system of Government," he told the members and their guests, "by which people can be both fed and free - in contrast to other forms of government under which now 80% of the world lives, under whip and lash and bayonet.

We are now at a second Valley Forge, where we will determine whether the American idea is going ahead or down the drain. If we are not equal to the kind of challenge that your forefathers met, and unless we know what we are doing, the freedom we know will be lost for our children and grandchildren.

"If the United States goes down, human freedom is going down for all time. If we are setting back and letting things happen, we do not deserve the position and things we now enjoy."

Mr. Wells reported that although no invitations are broadcast, over 40,000 persons visited Freedom Foundation and the Independence Garden - where a bronze replica of the Declaration of Independence is enshrined amid a circlet of stones from the homes of all 56 Signers - in the first 11 months of 1964, and more than 6,000 teachers have taken part in the seminars on the American way of freedom held week after week at the Foundation's headquarters. Beginning July 4, he said, a formal teaching program for graduate students and teachers sponsored by the George Washington University and American Bar Association, will begin at the Foundation, aimed at understanding of the American Heritage and how to teach it. The courses will earn standard college credits.

"It is your duty and mine to perfect this system of ours, and export it to the world, to the peoples of the world as children of God. If we do not, it will not be for lack of money or means, but simply because we don't care. I plead with you. A Passion for freedom must fill us all, to put our hearts and money on the line. Or let us be honest with ourselves, and abandon in public what we have abandoned in our hearts. But I believe our mortal strength is equal to the task, if we will really ask ourselves if we are really dedicated to preserve the priceless gift of freedom, home, church and school. The essence of rights is not in having them, but in fulfilling them.

We must do these things: (1) Speak up for freedom ourselves, never letting an instant go by without telling the story of the vitality of our idea of freedom to all we meet. (2) Remember that the gunpowder of the cold war is the money that will fire the shots heard in the hearts of men around the world. (3) Realize that it is the responsibility of each generation to pass on its ideals to the next. If we fall down on this and break the chain, we are not doing this.

"Come out to Valley Forge, place your foot on the stones from the home of your Signer ancestor, in the Independence Garden, and tell him, I have carried your banner, I have not failed you."

The session was adjourned with announcement that the arrangements for the mid-May Congress at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, are in the care of a special committee of the Pennsylvania State Society, D.S.D.I.

Respectfully submitted,

C. B. Axford  
Secretary pro-tem

ADDITIONS TO MINUTES OF THE  
NEW YORK MEETING

The reports of the several officers of our Society were presented and approved, with the exception of the Secerary-General, Mr. Thomas Graham.

Universal sorrow was expressed when the members of the Society and their guests were informed that Mr. Graham was not able to be present because of ill health. And because Mr. Daniel W. B. Flint, the Asst. Secetary-General had to leave before the end of the meeting because of a conflict of engagements, the Society is again indebted to Mr. Clinton Axford for his excellent recording and reports of the meeting.