

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.
ANNUAL FALL MEETING - Yorktown and Fort Monroe, Virginia, Oct. 9-10 1965

MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING - OLD CUSTOM HOUSE, YORKTOWN
Saturday, October 9, 1965

The annual Fall session of the Board of Governors was called to order at eleven a.m. by President General Smith, and at his request, Honorary President General Goodsell offered the D.S.D.I. prayer for guidance and fidelity.

In attendance were, in addition to Messrs. Smith and Goodsell, Mrs. W. F. McBain, Mrs. R. H. Whitney, Mrs. L. Lee Layton, Miss Juliana T. Paca, Mrs. Wm. F. Lynch, II, Mr. Milton A. Thomas, Mr. Frederick C. Pyne, and Mr. C. B. Axford. At request of the President General, in the absence of the Secretary General, Mr. Axford assumed the duties of Secretary pro tem of the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting, May 15, at Independence Hall, Philadelphia were read by the Secretary pro tem and approved following correction of name of Mrs. Barbara Brooks Walker (from Walter).

The President General, having prepared a report on the problems of the Society, was requested not to defer reading it until the February meeting, and he did so. Among points which this report raised were:

- The problem of arrangements for the Annual Congress at Philadelphia in May in the absence of an active Pennsylvania D.S.D.I. Society.
- The question of deposit or investing the \$2,000 bequest received from the Estate of Mrs. Helen Mercer, of New York, which had been immediately deposited in a savings account at the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society where it is earning 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ %.
- The problem of cost of attendance of officers at meetings.
- The high cost of printing D.S.D.I. announcements, stationery, etc.
- The need for a budget as a control for Society expenditures.
- The necessity for action on these and other matters after due consideration.

The President General suggested that no action be taken by the session on these matters, and so further consideration was deferred. Meanwhile, certain Board members expressed desire that this report be included in the copies of the minutes to be sent all Board Members by the Secretary General prior to the February meeting.

President General Smith thanked the officers of the Society and others who had participated in carrying on the work of the Society during the previous six months.

The question of dues from Mrs. Percy R. Varian was discussed informally, and upon motion and second, the Board unanimously voted to "suspend" her dues payment, considering her long membership in the Society.

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Report of the Registrar General, Mrs. Lynch, was presented by her, and is appended. It indicates ten new Senior members, and four new Junior members. However, report of the Treasurer General showed 21 members automatically dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues for two past years. A list is appended. President General Smith suggested that he would like to write a letter to each of the 21, and such action on his part was approved by a consensus of Board members, after a discussion on the need to avoid "running after" anyone to become or remain a member.

The Registrar General reported three deaths among members, as per list appended.

The Board acted upon a motion, properly seconded, for reinstatement of membership of Mr. Allen Hoblitzell, of Baltimore, conditioned upon his expected payment of arrears.

A motion by Mr. Goddsell to consider a change in the by-laws to provide for dropping of members when one-year delinquent in payment of dues, was made, but was withdrawn after discussion.

In the absence of the Treasurer General, who sent her regrets, Miss Densmore's report was read by the Secretary pro tem. Copy of this report is appended. On motion by Mrs. Layton, the Board unanimously expressed its thanks to Miss Densmore for her very faithful service and performance of duties and its regret at her absence.

A discussion of the investment of the Society's funds followed. Mr. Axford noted that an Advisory Committee had been named two years ago by the President General consisting of Robert Clarkson, Rear Admiral Pyne and himself to make recommendations to the President General and the Treasurer General to govern future investment of funds, or changes in investments. As to the \$2,000 bequest fund, Mr. Axford suggested that it be placed in some good stock, (possibly more A. T. & T.) and it was the consensus of the meeting that the Investment Committee should make some recommendation on this whole subject.

No report was received from the Scholarship Committee in the absence of Miss Lee. But it was pointed out that the present scholar's college term will end in February. A report by the committee is expected at the New York meeting prior to the end of this term.

On the call for discussion of old business, Mr. Goodsell, Centennial Committee Chairman, said that although 1976 may seem a long way off, he would like to begin working on the idea of placing a monument to the Signers in Washington that year. He asked for authority to consult with and obtain designs for such a monument. Upon discussion, this idea was approved, and his motion was amended to provide that he may commit the Society to spend up to \$100.00 if necessary for execution of preliminary designs, although he said he might possibly get them for less, or no payment at all. Duly

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seconded, this motion, as amended, was unanimously passed. The charge, if any, would be made against the Centennial Fund of the Society, Mr. Goodsell explained.

Following discussion initiated by the President General, the Board voted approval of the idea of sending a letter from him to the Mercer estate thanking them for the bequest of \$2,000.

Mrs. Whitney asked that the D.S.O.I. go on record opposing the building of a proposed 40-unit apartment building in Yorktown, since it would be so utterly out of harmony with the town's character. This was seconded as a motion, and the Board voted to have a letter sent to Mr. Stewart S. Udall, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. and Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Following the closing of the meeting by the President General, the Board members enjoyed luncheon in the Parish House, served by the ladies of the Grace Episcopal Church, Yorktown, Va.

C. B. Axford
Secretary pro tem