

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

MINUTES

Meeting of Members, Old Custom House, Yorktown, Oct. 9, 1965

With about 35 members and guests in attendance in the second floor meeting room of the Old Custom House, President General Marsden Smith called the session to order at 4 p.m. At his request the Descendants' prayer for guidance and divine aid was offered by Honorary President General Goodsell.

The minutes of the previous meeting at Independence Hall, May 15, 1965, were read by Mr. Pyne, in the absence of the Secretary General. Mr. Axford was again assigned the duties of Secretary pro tem.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a correction noted as to omission of the election of a Nominating Committee to report in February. This committee, it was pointed out by Mr. Goodsell, consists of Mrs. Emily G. Hopkinson, Mrs. R. McG. Marsh and Mr. Corbin B. Valentine.

President General Smith reported the receipt by the Society of a check for \$2,000 from the estate of a former member, Mrs. Helen Mercer. He stressed the amount of work which officers aiding him have contributed and expressed his thanks for all who have taken part in the work of the O.S.D.I.

Several new members attending for the first time were introduced and welcomed by President General Smith with hope that this might be the first of many meetings attended by them.

Report of the Registrar General, Mrs. Lynch, was presented, showing ten new Senior Members, four new Junior Members, and 3 deaths. (names appended).

Report of the Treasurer General, Miss Densmore, was read in her absence by the Secretary pro tem. In a discussion of investment of the Society's funds, it was pointed out that Section 6 of the Constitution requires that the "Treasurer General..... shall make payments..... only under resolutions adopted by the Society or by the Board of Governors", and that any purchase of stock is by "payment" and hence, authority for such investment must be by either the Board or the general Society meeting.

The Treasurer's report, showing total assets of \$8,391.94 as of September 30, 1965, indicated receipts for the five month period May 1, Sept. 30 of \$2,438.50 and expenses of \$1,243.22. The receipts included the \$2,000 received from the estate of Mrs. Helen Mercer, with dues and fees totaling \$303.00 in the period.

The Treasurer General's report also showed 21 members dropped for non-payment of dues for two years.

Milton Addison Thomas, Historian General, presented the story of the services of Thomas Nelson, Delegate from Virginia, in the Declaration and war for our Independence. It was Nelson, he related, who carried the Virginia Resolve for Independence to the Continental Congress, and who was among Virginia's Signers. At the siege of Yorktown, he found that the American artillerymen were sparing his own home out of neglect. But Nelson ordered them to fire at it and thereby routed the British officers who had thought themselves safe there. He became Governor of Virginia after the war, succeeding Thomas Jefferson. When he died at age 50 on January 4, 1789, he left his family impoverished and saddled with debt, although he had been a prosperous merchant and landowner before the Revolution.

In the absence of the Scholarship Committee chairman, there was no report. Our D.S.D.I. scholar, Miss Lucy Day, is scheduled to graduate in February.

Two Governors presented reports of State Activities.

~~Miss~~ Juliana Paca, Governor for Maryland, reported three new members coming in, and on the progress on the preservation of Carvel Hall and the Carroll House. She also said that wings of a new high school in Baltimore have been named after Maryland's Signers.

The Society unanimously approved a motion that Mr. Axford be requested to prepare and to send to Mr. Thomas Graham, formerly Secretary-General and to Mrs. William Ward, III, formerly Registrar-General, both of whom have recently resigned, a resolution expressing the Society's great appreciation of the faithful services rendered for so long by these valued members.

Former President General Goodsell reported on ideas of the Centennial Committee, of which he is chairman. Observation of the 200th anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence, in 1976, he asked authority to expend up to \$100 from the Centennial Fund, if necessary, to obtain sketches of a monument as a possible memorial to the Signers to be installed in Washington. He hoped, he said, that the cost of such sketches might be nothing, or nominal. His motion for the power to proceed along the lines of his request was duly seconded and voted unanimously.

Mr. Goodsell also reported that his guest at the meeting, Mr. Tom Poole, was preparing a series of water color sketches of the homes of all the Signers.

He also moved that the Society express its regret at the absence of the Secretary General, Mr. Hopkinson, and its sympathy in his loss of his wife by death last August. This was voted unanimously, with the Secretary pro tem being instructed to convey this message to him at once.

Mrs. Lynch expressed the Society's appreciation for use of the Custom House for its meeting, and on motion of Mr. Goodsell, it was voted to donate \$15 to the Yorktown D.A.R. Chapter to be used for upkeep of the building. (NOTE: This check should be sent to Mrs. Isabel Hall, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Compté deGrasse Chapter, Dare, Va.)

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Following a resolution unanimously passed when offered by Mr. Goodsell to "thank the Virginia D.S.D.I. Society for their deeply appreciated, unfailing hospitality and work in preparing for and hosting the Annual Fall Meeting", the meeting was adjourned.

** - C.B.Axford, Secretary pro tem

Delegates and guests thereupon motored to Fort Monroe where the assemblage, about 65 in number, enjoyed a social hour and banquet, presided over by Mrs. Raymond H. Whitney, President of the Virginia Society, following which an address by Mr. Samuel Merrifield Bemiss, Richmond Historian and Businessman, on Thomas Nelson, Signer, was heard, with profit and pleasure.

On Sunday, October 10, the delegates and guests attended divine service at Grace Episcopal Church, Yorktown, followed by a visit to the Thomas Nelson House, where they were welcomed by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Blow. Many thereafter visited the Yorktown Battlefield.

Minutes of the Meeting should include:

Mrs. Lee Layton, Governor for Delaware, reported four new members coming in and that she had represented the D.S.D.I. on July 4, at Christ Church, where Signer Cesar Rodney is buried.

CHANGE OF NAME & ADDRESS

1117 Susan Center Brown Francis Lewis
to
Susan Center Klein (Mrs. William R. Klein)
338 Audubon Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

SENIOR MEMBERS

1345 Rachel Wood Hopkinson Francis Hopkinson
Spring Mill Road, Gladwyn, Penna.
(Former Jr. #368)

1346 Amanda Cutler Stephen Hopkins
106 St. James Street, Kingston, N. Y.
(Former Jr. #285)

1347 John William Middendorf, III Benjamin Rush
1412 Malvern Avenue, Ruxton Richard Stockton
Baltimore, Maryland (21204)

1348 Peter Bowdoin Middendorf Benjamin Rush
1412 Malvern Avenue, Ruxton Richard Stockton
Baltimore, Maryland (21204)

1349 Alice Carter Middendorf Benjamin Rush
1412 Malvern Avenue, Ruxton Richard Stockton
Baltimore, Maryland (21204)

1350 Rosamond Moore Peacock-Green Francis Hopkinson
(Mrs. Jack Peacock-Green)
Dogwood Mooring
Amberley 2 R.F.D. 2
Annapolis, Maryland

1351 W. Mayo Smith, Jr. Benjamin Harrison
36 Signal Hill
Wilton, Conn. (06897)

1352 Margaret Ames Walton Thompson Mills John Hart
(Mrs. S. Peter Mills, III)
1288 Westbrook Street
Portland, Maine
(Former Jr. #275)

1353 Newton Craig Brackett, Jr., M.D. Francis Hopkinson
1629 Westbrook Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

1354 Frank B. Porter, IV Philip Livingston
16 Ivy Road
Belmont, Mass.
(Former Jr. #289)

VIRGINIA MEETING - October 10, 1965 (con't)

S. I. Lynch

JUNIOR MEMBERS

580	Claiborne Winn Crews 1309 Ware Road Richmond, Virginia (23229)	Adult #1340 Lewis Jeremy Crews, Jr.	Carter Braxton
581	Jennifer Spotswood Felts 805 Lake Boone Trail Raleigh, North Carolina	Adult 1344 Lucie Lee Crews Felts (Mrs. Wm. Edward Felts, Jr.)	Carter Braxton
582	William Edward Felts, III 805 Lake Boone Trail Raleigh, North Carolina	Adult #1344 Same as above	Carter Braxton
583	Diane Beery Ferguson 213 Kings Mountain Street York, South Carolina	Adult #826 John Henry Myers 1302 N. Walker St. Princeton, W. Va.	Carter Braxton

REINSTATEMENT

838	Mrs. William Warner Hoppin 53 East 66th Street, New York City, N. Y.	Eldrige Gerry
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DEATHS

955	Mrs. Garland Linthicum c/o W. Lester Baldwin, Esq. 1513 Fidelity Bldg. Baltimore, Md. (June 18, 1965)	William Paca
434	Mrs. Joseph Fairbanks 3319 Newark Street Washington, D. C. (July 7, 1965)	Josiah Bartlett
1083	John Rutherford 115 Broadway New York City, N.Y. (May 19, 1965)	Lewis Morris

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.
 REPORT OF THE TREASURER - GENERAL
 May 1, 1965 - September 30, 1965

<u>Balance on Hand, May 1, 1965</u>		\$ 7,196.66
 <u>Receipts, May 1, to September 30, 1965</u>		
Interest on Bonds	\$ 16.25	
Dividend on Stock	57.00	
Dues and Fees	303.00	
Contributions for Preservation of Carvel Hall, Annapolis	45.00	
Bi-Centennial Contributions from Dues and Fees	17.25	
Legacy from Estate of Mrs. Helen Mercer	2,000.00	
 Total Receipts		 <u>2,438.50</u>
 Total Gross Assets		 \$ 9,635.16
 <u>Disbursements, May 1 to September 30, 1965</u>		
Printing - The Winchell Company, Philadelphia	\$ 597.93	
Officers' Expenses:		
President-General	\$ 50.00	
Secretary-General	<u>32.50</u>	82.50
Scholarship Award to Miss Lucy Day, Richmond		125.00
Contributions:		
Philadelphia Society for Pres. of Landmarks	\$ 25.00	
Historic Annapolis, Inc. (Carvel Hall)		
(Contributions from members - Annual Congress		
in amount of \$45, plus \$25 contribution of		
Society voted at 1965 Annual Congress)	<u>70.00</u>	95.00
Deficit of Annual Congress, Philadelphia, 1965		177.14
Transfer from cash to savings - Bi-Centennial Contrib.		17.25
Miscellaneous expenses:		
Safe Box Rental	\$ 4.40	
Refunds for luncheon of Annual Congress	7.50	
Four wreaths for New Jersey Signers' graves	41.00	
 Five wreaths for Pennsylvania Signers' graves	 75.00	
Mailing tubes for certificates	3.00	
Engrossing certificates	7.50	
Returned check charged to Society	<u>10.00</u>	148.40
 Total Expenses		 <u>1,243.22</u>
Balance remaining September 30, 1965		\$ 8,391.94

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REPORT OF THE TREASURER-GENERAL

Accounted for as follows:

Cash (Checking Account) Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Co.	\$ 203.02
General (Savings account for Mercer Legacy) 4 1/4% P.S.F.S.	2,000.00
Bi-Centennial Reserve (Savings Account) 4 1/4% P.S.F.S.	1,310.86
Scholarship Fund (Savings Account) 4 1/4% P.S.F.S.	57.50
U.S. Savings Bond - 2 1/2%, reserved for Bi-Centennial	500.00
U.S. Treasury Bond - 4% " "	500.94
U.S. Treasury Bond - 2 1/2% " "	500.08
Scholarship Fund (57 shs. A. T. & T. Stock at cost	<u>3,319.62</u>
 Total Assets, September 30, 1965	 \$ 8,391.94

Natalie L. Densmore
Treasurer-General

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

October 5, 1965

Report of Members in Arrears with Dues for Two Years and Owing Current Dues

- 913 - Mr. William Randolph Benson, III, Dallas, Texas, (Resigned)
- 1230 - Mrs. Irwin M. Boozer, Anniston, Alabama
- 1014 - Mr. James B. Craighill, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 667 - Mrs. Herbert H. Cutler, Woodstock, New York
- 1013 - Comtesse Madeline de Bryas, Santa Barbara, California
- 1209 - Mrs. Samuel A. Fortson, Jr., Augusta, Georgia
- 1223 - Mr. Hugh B. Green, Staunton, Virginia
- 516 - Mrs. Ronald Greene, Gastonia, North Carolina
- 950 - Mrs. Robert A. Haines, Middlebury, Vermont
- 881 - Mr. John T. Haneman, Jr., Oyster Bay, L.I., New York
- 1284 - Mrs. Harry A. Johnson, Arlington, Massachusetts
- 1075 - Mrs. Calvert Melton, Media, Pennsylvania
- 1054 - Mrs. Raymond Rambach, Boston, Massachusetts
- 692 - Mrs. John P. Stevens, Savannah, Georgia
- 1258 - Mr. Jack P. Stockton, III, Passaic, New Jersey
- 1010 - Mrs. James K. Sullivan, Washington, D. C.
- 1294 - Mr. William H. Sutfenfield, Jr., Westport, Connecticut
- 1068 - Mrs. Kirby H. Tappan, Columbia, Connecticut
- 962 - Mrs. Michael H. Tomaino, Pleasantville, New York
- 910 - Mr. Corbin B. Valentine, Alexandria, Virginia
- 1126 - Mr. Eugene M. Valentine, Richmond, Virginia

Natalie L. Densmore
Treasurer-General

for meeting October 9, 1965
Yorktown, Virginia

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 Total Gross Assets		 \$ 9,635.16
 <u>Disbursements, May 1 to September 30, 1965</u>		
Printing - The Winchell Company, Philadelphia	\$	597.93
Officers' Expenses:		
President-General	\$	50.00
Secretary-General		32.50
		<u>82.50</u>
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Bi-Centennial Reserve (Savings account) 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % P.S.F.S.		1,310.86
Scholarship Fund (Savings account) 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % P.S.F.S.		57.50
U.S. Savings Bond - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, reserved for Bi-Centennial		500.00
U.S. Treasury Bond - 4% " " " "		500.94
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Natalie K. Denamore Robert P. Denamore
 Treasurer-General Pres. & Treas. Gen.