

SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the
DESCENDANTS of the SIGNERS of the
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, INC.

Philadelphia, Pa.
May 13 and 14, 1972

I. Meeting of the Board of Governors

The meeting was called to order by President-General Satterthwaite at 10:30 A.M. in the Barclay Hotel.

The following members were present: Franklin Bache Satterthwaite, Tomlin Braxton Callison, Percy Hamilton Goodsell, Jr., John Morton Fultz, Jr., James Paul Hopkinson, Juliana Tilghman Paca, Agnes B. DeForest, Natalie L. Densmore, Mary S. Schumacher, Barbara M. Kalbfleisch, C. B. Axford, Sarah I. Lynch and Schuyler N. Pyne.

Mr. Satterthwaite, who was retiring as President-General, began the meeting with an expression of thanks to the Board for their support during the three years of his administration. He remembered especially Honorary President-General Marsden Smith and Secretary-General Truxtun Brodhead, both of whom died in office, having served the Society with devotion and hard work. He also wished to commend Natalie Densmore, who served diligently for many years as Registrar-General and Treasurer-General, and Honorary President-General Percy Goodsell for continuing his lifetime of service by promoting the Society's Bicentennial project. At the same time, he said, he was delighted at the sight of new faces on the Board.

In commenting on the developments of the past three years, Mr. Satterthwaite observed that the activities of the Society had been broadened by holding special meetings such as the "Camelia Meeting" in Beaufort, hosted by South Carolina's Bobbie DeForest, and the Princeton luncheon given by New Jersey's Mrs. Thomas Frelinghuysen, assisted by Mary Schumacher of the New York Society.

Mr. Satterthwaite also reviewed the membership survey which he had designed and conducted. About one third of the members answered the questionnaire which was distributed, and the results provided an information base helpful for the development of activity and interest in the Society. He said the survey had helped in the search for workers and had strengthened his belief in the desirability of making frequent changes in the administration of the Society.

The minutes of the 1972 Winter Meeting in New York were read by First Vice President-General Fultz. They were approved as read.

Registrar-General Barbara Kalbfleisch proposed for membership nine Seniors, one reinstatement and two Juniors. She also reported the death of Thomas Graham, who for many years was Secretary-General of the Society. (See Attachment I for the complete report.)

<u>Status of Membership</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>
On the Roll 2-19-72	576	236
5-13-72 Report - Deceased	1	
Resigned		
Dropped		
Reinstated	1	
Reclassified	+4	-4
New	5	2
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5-13-72 On the Roll	585	234

The proposed new members were unanimously elected by the Board.

Upon motion by Mr. Goodsell, the Board asked Mr. Axford to prepare a resolution in memory of Mr. Graham. Mr. Satterthwaite said that the resolution which Mr. Axford had written in memory of Truxtun Brodhead had been given to Mrs. Brodhead and that he had received a warm letter of appreciation from her.

Treasurer-General James Paul Hopkinson presented his report (see Attachment II) showing a balance of \$24,849 in all funds compared with \$21,354 a year ago. Increases were noted as follows: General Fund, \$1219; Year Book Reserve, \$619; Scholarship Fund, \$846; and Bicentennial Fund, \$811. It was moved by Mr. Goodsell and seconded by Mrs. Kalbfleisch that \$1000 be transferred from the General Fund to the Bicentennial Fund. The motion was carried unanimously.

The list of members delinquent in dues for two years was not available. Subsequent to the meeting the Treasurer-General submitted the list (see Attachment III) showing 16 members in arrears.

The Treasurer-General's report was accepted by the Board.

Miss Densmore noted that meeting expenses exceeded receipts by \$400 and questioned whether this had resulted from underpricing or from invitations to non-paying guests. Mr. Fultz replied that it was due mostly to underpricing since meal costs have risen to the point where attendance would suffer from pricing to avoid subsidization. Several members questioned the fairness to those at a distance who could not attend the meetings. Mr. Satterthwaite pointed out that we were attempting to broaden the area in which meetings were being held so that more members could benefit. Miss Densmore urged that more issues of the Bulletin be issued so that distant members would get more news for their money. There was a short discussion of the possibility of creating a "non-resident" class of dues, but no action was taken on this.

Mr. Axford moved that the Board express appreciation for the work of the Treasurer-General.

Bicentennial Committee Chairman Percy H. Goodsell displayed two of the \$5 sketches proposed for the bas-relief to be placed in the Capitol, one by Mrs. Jeremiah Clarke of New York and Newport, and the other by Alan Sebree Robbins of New York. The others, which had been rejected by the Committee, were the work of Mrs. Robert Hart Wadsworth, of Granby, Conn., Edward Fenno Hoffman III, of Wayne, Pa., and Edgar C. Steever, of Devon, Pa. The Board decided to accept, with minor suggested modifications, Mr. Robbins' design showing pen in hand below a scroll representing the Declaration of Independence, providing that the quotation "we pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" will be added. A motion was carried, with Mr. Axford dissenting, to present Mr. Robbins' design to the membership for approval. Mr. Goodsell will provide an estimate of cost at the next Board Meeting.

Under Unfinished Business, Treasurer-General Hopkinson proposed a budget showing revenues of \$6900, \$7200, and \$7500 for each of the next three fiscal years, respectively. This would provide for a balance in the Bicentennial Fund of \$10,000 by 1975, exclusive of any special fund-raising activity. The Board voted to approve the budget as guidance to the Treasurer-General.

Under New Business, Mr. Hopkinson read a letter received from member Charles W. Mitchell, 3rd, a descendant of Carter Braxton, who now lives in England. Mr. Mitchell proposes that the Society consider taking

over the management of his financial estate upon his death, disbursing the proceeds to two beneficiaries in England until their deaths, at which time the estate would become part of the Scholarship Fund. Mr. Hopkinson had written to Mr. Mitchell expressing interest and appreciation, and had sent a copy of Mr. Mitchell's letter to Chancellor-General Ridley Finch for a legal opinion. The Board voted to leave further action up to the Executive Committee.

First Vice President-General Fultz requested approval for a contribution to the Valley Forge Historical Society of \$56.00, being \$1.00 per person attending the Luncheon at Maxwell's Quarters through the courtesy of that Society. The Board directed the Treasurer-General to make the contribution.

Mr. Hopkinson

The date of the Fall Meeting was set for October 14 and 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

II. General Meeting of the Society

The meeting was called to order by President-General Franklin Bache Satterthwaite at 2:00 P.M. in the East Wing Annex of Independence Hall. About 40 members and guests were present.

Honorary Chaplain-General the Reverend Dr. Ernest Harding gave the prayer of the Society.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Honorary President-General Schuyler N. Pyne.

First Vice President-General John Morton Fultz read the minutes of the 1971 Annual Congress. The minutes were approved as read.

Retiring President-General Satterthwaite expressed his appreciation to the Board of Governors for their support during his three years in office. He mentioned particularly Honorary President-General Marsden Smith and Secretary-General Truxtun Brodhead, both of whom died in office, as well as ~~former Treasurer-General~~ Natalie Densmore, ~~and~~ B. Axford and many others who had worked diligently for the Society. He said the Society had never been healthier, with 585 members, up from 512 in 1967. He said he was especially pleased with the widening of the territory covered by meetings, such as the "Camelia" meeting last year in Beaufort, South Carolina, which was arranged by Mrs. Lionel De Forest, and the luncheon in Princeton given by Mrs. Thomas Frelinghuysen with the able assistance of Mary Schumacher, President of the New York Society, which featured a tour of the homes of Richard Stockton and John Hart. Mr. Satterthwaite said he was looking forward to continued development of the Society under new leadership.

Registrar-General Barbara Kalbfleisch announced the election of nine Seniors, one reinstatement and two Juniors. She also reported the death of Thomas Graham, who for many years was Secretary-General of the Society. There are now 585 Senior members and 234 Juniors.

Treasurer-General James Paul Hopkinson presented his report which showed a balance of \$24,800 in all funds, compared with \$21,300 a year ago. The Bicentennial Fund now totals \$5000 and the Scholarship Fund \$12,900. The Bicentennial Fund has been increased through the contributions of Honorary President-General Percy Goodsell and Mr. Thomas Pool. Mr. Goodsell has been giving the proceeds from his illustrated lecture on "Homes and Homesites of the Signers"; and Mr.