

ANNUAL FALL MEETING of the
DESCENDANTS of the SIGNERS of the
DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCE, Inc.

Boston, Massachusetts
October 14 and 15, 1972

I. Meeting of the Board of Governors

The meeting was called to order by Acting President-General DeForest at the home of Mrs. Barbara Brooks Walker, President of the Massachusetts Society, 13 Walnut Street, Beacon Hill, at 10:30 A.M.

The following members were present: Barbara B. Walker, James Paul Hopkins, Percy H. Goodsell, Jr., D.H. Heyward, Jr., Agnes B. DeForest, Frederick Wallace Pyne, Mary Stokes Schumacher, Barbara M. Kalbfleisch, Tomlin B. Callison, William Thomas Betton, and John Morton Fultz, Jr.

President-General DeForest opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary-General Fultz read the minutes of the 65th Annual Congress Board Meeting in Philadelphia. The minutes were approved as read.

Mrs. DeForest announced that the Society will be listed in the forthcoming issue of the new Hereditary Register of the United States of America.

Registrar-General Barbara Kalbfleisch proposed for membership 7 new Seniors, 2 reinstatements and 3 Juniors. She reported one resignation and 9 deaths, including thirteen year old junior member Robert Rogan Burchenal. The Board unanimously elected the new members and accepted the reinstatements and the one resignation. (See Attachment I).

	<u>Status of Membership</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Juniors</u>
5-13-72	On the Roll	565	234
10-14-72	Report - Deceased	±8	-1
	Resigned	-1	
	Dropped	-12	
	Reinstated	2	
	Reclassified	1	-1
	New	6	3
10-14-72	On the Roll	573	235

Mr. Goodsell asked about the resolutions that the Board had ordered to be prepared in memory of President-General Shubrick Clymer and former Secretary-General Thomas Graham. Mr. Fultz replied that Mr. Axford has completed the text of both resolutions but was unable to have them printed in time for the meeting. They will be presented at the February Board Meeting.

Mr. Axford

Treasurer-General Hopkinson presented the audit report prepared by Elko, Fischer & McCabe, C.P.A. of Media, Pa. A copy is on file with the Secretary-General.

Mr. Hopkinson read the names of 12 members dropped for non-payment of dues for two years. (Two of them have subsequently paid and are eligible for reinstatement at the next meeting). See Attachment III.

The Income and Balance statements, which are shown on Attachment II, include contributions of \$1164 to the Scholarship Fund and \$232.50 to the Bicentennial Fund. Balances in all funds as of October 10, 1972 totalled \$26,952, of which \$13,742 was in the Scholarship Fund and \$6203 in the Bicentennial Fund.

Regarding the Charles Wellman Mitchell Bequest, Mr. Hopkinson reported that the matter is now in the hands of Chancellor-General Ridley Finch.

Mr. Finch

Bicentennial Committee Chairman Goodsell reported that sculptor Alan Sebree Robbins had agreed to execute the proposed bicentennial plaque for \$12,650. To this must be added transportation charges and \$200 for mounting on the wall of the Capitol, bringing the total to somewhat less than \$13,000.

Mr. Robbins had asked for an initial payment of \$3500. Upon motion of First Vice President-General Pyne, which was seconded by Secretary-General Fultz, the Board voted unanimously to make the initial payment at once.

Mr. Hopkinson said that one half of the Bicentennial Fund was invested in a bank savings certificate which could not be cashed immediately. Since there was only \$2700 available in cash, he asked for and received approval to transfer \$800 from the general fund to complete the \$3500 payment to Mr. Robbins.

Vice President-General Pyne proposed that the Board send out a special report to the membership accompanied by an appeal for contributions. Mr. Goodsell agreed to provide photographs for use in the report; and Mr. Hopkinson will write the accompanying letter, which will be signed by President-General DeForest.

Mr. Goodsell

Mr. Hopkinson

Mrs. Walker said she had received an offer of help from Mayor White in connection with Boston's Bicentennial celebration. Mr. Goodsell suggested she send a letter of thanks and appreciation, stating that our plans were not yet formulated and that we hoped to participate by sending a representative.

Mrs. Walker

Scholarship Committee Chairman Downs being absent, there was no report. Mr. Fultz noted that there were substantial contributions made each year and asked whether these might be used to provide additional awards. The consensus was that awards should be made from earnings and that contributions should be added to the capital fund.

D.S.D.I. Bulletin Editor Mary Schumacher reported that the last issue, entitled "Spirit of '76", was produced at a cost of \$240 and asked for Board approval to put out two issues per year at that cost. The Board was highly complimentary of Mrs. Schumacher's work and granted the request.

The following resolution to amend the Constitution was proposed by the Secretary-General and seconded by the First Vice President-General :

RESOLVED that Article IV, Section 4, of the constitution of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc. be amended to read as follows:

Article IV, Section 4. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of any officer of the society, occurring between sessions of the Annual Congress, the President-General may in his discretion appoint another member to fill such vacancy, for the unexpired term, * until the next annual election. In the event of the death, resignation,* * or disability of the President-General, the First Vice President- * General shall become the President-General, and the Second Vice * President-General shall become the First Vice President-General for * the unexpired term, until the next election. A Nominating Committee * of three (3) shall be elected by the Annual Congress for the nomination of all officers. This Committee shall keep in mind, in making nominations, proper geographical representation and shall report to the Board one name for each office ninety days in advance of the Annual Congress. Notice of these nominations shall be mailed to all members of the society sixty days in advance of the Annual Congress. Any ten members may nominate additional candidates for any office to be filled by sending written notices of such nominations to the President-General and the Secretary-General at least ten days in advance of the Annual Congress.

* Denotes sentence added.

The resolution was approved unanimously and it will be proposed to the membership for their approval at the 1973 Winter Meeting.

First Vice President-General Pyne reviewed the results of his survey of the membership regarding future meetings of the society. He had previously distributed his report to members of the Executive Committee with the suggestion that changes in the Constitution and By-Laws might be considered in order to provide more flexibility in scheduling and locations.

Mr. Pyne felt that the work of arranging meetings should be shared by the Vice Presidents-General, with one being responsible for physical arrangements and the other for content of the meetings. He also observed that the D,S.D.I. Bulletin was greatly appreciated and helped to give our Society needed visibility. He felt we needed to decide how visible we should be and what image we should try to project.

The 1973 Winter Meeting was discussed, and it was agreed to hold it in Charleston, South Carolina, on February 10 and 11, 1973. While expressing support for the Charleston meeting, Mr. Goodsell urged the Board to keep in mind that the greatest concentrations of members centered in New York City and Virginia. He asked that a New York meeting be scheduled during 1973. Action on this was referred to the Executive Committee.

The President-General will appoint a committee to arrange the Charleston meeting. Mr. Pyne and Mr. Heyward offered their assistance. (Subsequent to the meeting the Secretary-General received an offer of help from Mr. Herman Prioleau Hamilton of Chester, South Carolina.)

The 66th Annual Congress was set for May 12 and 13, 1973 in Philadelphia.

Collateral Descendants. Mrs. Walker said that in advertising the Boston meeting she had received many requests for membership from collateral descendants and asked the Board to consider the establishment of an Associate Membership class. Mrs. Kalbfleisch, also, said that she had had a number of such applications over the years. Mrs. DeForest felt we were excluding many who would be assets to the society if permitted to join. A number of members were in opposition, and Mr. Goodsell summed up their views by pointing out that the attribute which made the society unique was that all members were direct descendants. No action was taken on the proposal.

Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary-General Fultz read a resolution submitted by C.B.Axford, who was absent, urging that the words "Rights and Responsibilities" be added to the Pledge of Allegiance of the Flag of the United States. The resolution was not approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

II. General Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Acting President-General DeForest in the Governor's Council Chamber of the Old State House at 2:30 P.M. About fifty members and guests were present.

The Prayer of the Society was read by First Vice President-General Pyne, following which the Secretary-General led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 65th Annual Congress were read and approved.

The President-General expressed her thanks to Mrs. Barbara Walker for the splendid meeting arrangements and observed that the Declaration was first read in Boston on July 18, 1776 from the balcony of the very room in which the meeting was being held.

Mrs. DeForest announced that the Society would be listed in the next edition of the Hereditary Register of the United States of America. She also recommended for interesting reading the book The Story of the Declaration of Independence, published by Malone, Mulholland and Kaplan, and the specifications for the D.S.D.I. insigne, which is found in the 1970 Yearbook of the Society on page 9 under Article IX of the constitution.

Registrar-General Barbara Kalbfleisch announced the election of 7 new Senior members, 2 reinstatements and 3 Juniors. She reported one resignation and 9 deaths, including thirteen year old Junior member Robert Rogan Burchenal. There are now 573 Senior members and 235 Juniors.

Treasurer-General Hopkinson reported that the books had been audited as of April 30, 1972. Since then \$5300 was received from dues, contributions, and interest; expenses amounted to \$3200; and the balance in all funds stood at \$26,950. This included \$13700 in the Scholarship Fund and \$6200 in the Bicentennial Fund. He said the Board had that morning authorized an initial payment of \$3500 for the Bicentennial Plaque.