

SIXTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL CONGRESS of the
DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS of the
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
May 17 and 18, 1975

I. Meeting of the Board of Governors

The meeting was called to order by President-General DeForest and the following members were present: Agnes B. DeForest, James Paul Hopkinson, Hope Middleton Wood, Barbara M. Kalbfleisch, Marianne G. L. Brinker, Percy H. Goodsell, Jr., Harold Bend Sedgwick, Gabrielle Maupin Bielenstein, Marjorie P. Watters, Sarah I. Lynch, C. B. Axford, Eliza C. Funk, Juliana Tilghman Paca, Natalie L. Densmore, Harriet Jackson Ely, Milton Addison Thomas, Frederick Wallace Pyne, Barbara B. Walker, William Ward.

The minutes were approved as read by Secretary-General Wood.

Registrar-General Kalbfleisch presented a list of 12 new Seniors and 3 Juniors which were elected to membership upon motion of Mr. Goodsell. The Registrar-General also reported 6 deaths and 1 Life Member resulting in a total membership of 627 Seniors and 267 Juniors.

On motion of Mr. Goodsell the constitutional age limit has been reduced to 18 years.

Treasurer-General Hopkinson reported an excess in revenue of \$2,276.29 over expenditures for the fiscal year resulting in a net worth for the Society, as of April 30, 1975 of \$29,841.37. He further reported that the Internal Revenue Audit was satisfactory and there will be no change in the Society's tax exempt status.

There followed a general discussion of various sites for the Washington dinner including Anderson House, National Trust Buildings, State Department dining room and Home of Dolly Madison. Upon motion of Mr. Axford the final decision will be left to the committee.

A point of order was raised by President-General DeForest as to when the presiding President-General duties ceased and the newly elected President-General began. Upon a vote of the Board it was determined that the incoming President-General's term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual Congress weekend.

The Registrar-General reported two cases of applications for membership which trace their descent from Abraham Clark thru his son Thomas Clark. The applications were from a Mrs. Trotter, for herself and children, and Mrs. John W. Chapple, presently a member, seeking to enroll her children. Since a question has been raised as to the true lineage of the Thomas Clark from who they claim descent, particularly thru conversations with the Secretary-General of the Daughters of the American Revolution, it was moved and passed that an expenditure of up to \$250.00 be authorized for the purpose of establishing the true parentage of Thomas Clark.

The Board voted unanimously to present to the membership a constitutional amendment to Article V, Section 3 leaving Life Membership payment amounts to the discretion of the Board of Governors.

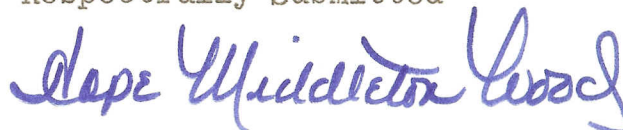
At the suggestion of Mr. Goodsell, the Board approved sending a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Griffith for dedicating flowers annually at St. Peter's Church in Arlington to the Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The Board received acknowledgement from the Society of the Cincinnati for the Lewis family artifacts on permanent loan from the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Inc.

Secretary-General Wood reported the receipt of an illustrated facsimile of the Declaration of Independence from Olwen Caradoc Evans of Wales to whom a letter of appreciation had been sent.

The meeting was then adjourned by President-General DeForest.

Respectfully Submitted



Hope Middleton Wood
Secretary-General