

SPIRIT OF '76



Published by the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Wonderful Williamsburg

We had a wonderful celebration of the Centennial meeting in Williamsburg. One hundred years ago, on the same weekend, the founders of this organization met to formalize the organization of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Immediate Past President Thomas Heyward Jr., and his wonderful wife Joanie, with the assistance of many others, created an event worthy of the celebration of the Society's founding.

The weekend began with the Board of Governor's meeting on Friday afternoon. Our Host informed us at that time of the anticipated attendees – 259 – the most in Society history.

Following the Board meeting, our large group assembled at the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge for our 4:45 PM parade to the Old Capitol Building. Leading the parade was a fife and drum ensemble. They were followed by two past-presidents of DSDI, Allan Heyward and Dr. Richard Corson, carrying the DSDI banner. Next came the symbol of freedom, the American flag, carried by Donald Ward, Jr. Behind him were Junior DSDI members carrying the 13 state flags. Ben Franklin joined us and walked in the parade with us. Our parade



Parade

moved north on England Street, crossed Francis Street and proceeded down Duke of Gloucester Street to the Old Capitol Building. Our procession attracted a large group of interested watchers as we progressed down the main street of Colonial Williamsburg. Following welcoming remarks by host Tommy and President General Ward, we were privileged to have Thomas Jefferson talk to us. He had returned to Williamsburg after his recent writing of the Declaration of Independence. When asked what

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The Peyton Randolph House

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Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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DSDI WEB SITE: <http://www.dsdi1776.com/>

Dear Friends;

Greetings from the icy NorthEast.

As I write this letter, the winds are blowing and ice is enclosing every branch. It is hard to believe that just a few short months ago we were all in Virginia enjoying the warmth and all the excellent events of our Centennial Meeting. What a time the DSDI had celebrating 100 year of our organizations history!

Our turnout was our largest in our history with 250 attendees. We were fortunate to see many old friends as well as new members.

Highlights of the weekend included a Parade of the Descendents through Colonial Williamsburg, appearances by Mr. Benjamin Franklin, General George Washington and Mr. Thomas Jefferson. Many of our members dressed in authentic Colonial costumes and this added to the festivities as we all gathered to honor our ancestors and give thanks for the freedom we enjoy due to the courage and sacrifices of those brave 56 men who pledged their "Lives, Fortunes and Sacred honors".

Our thanks and gratitude to the Heyward family for hosting this historic celebration. Tommy made this a truly memorable event for all of the Society. It is with deep sadness that I have to tell you that Tommy Heyward, our host of the Centennial Meeting, passed from this life just weeks after the event. We will all miss him and all he brought to the DSDI. Let us keep the Heyward family in our prayers.

As President General I reminded the participants that the future of our Society rests in the hands of those that were there and urged them to take active participation in promoting the ideals for which we stand. I am pleased to be able to report that the DSDI Scholarships have been awarded. My special thanks to the Scholarship Committee and especially to Leslie Picket Sheehan for all the hard work done on this project.



Our next Meeting is set for March 2008 in Greensboro, North Carolina we hope you are planning to attend. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, with a safe and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Donald Crosset Ward Sr.
President- General

The Spring Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008

3 P.M. Board of Governor's Meeting in the Conference Room at the Marriott.

5 P.M. Gathering of the SODS in the Marriott Hotel Bar.

Dinner on your own (See suggestions in packet upon arrival.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008

Breakfast on your own.

8:20 A.M. Bus leaves for the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

9 A.M. Visit the park museum and watch the movie dramatization of the battle.

10 A.M. Board bus for tour of the battlefield and monuments.

11 A.M. Observance program at the Nathaniel Green Monument. This will be followed by the Dedication Service marking the graves of John Penn and William Hooper with a twenty-one gun salute.

Noon Board bus for the Country Park Picnic Shelter #1 for the NC Barbecue Pig Pickin.

1:15 P.M. Board bus to Price Park for the re-enactment of the battle.

2 P.M. Live Re-enactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

3:30 P.M. Business meeting at the Kathleen Bryan Library in Price Park.

4:45 P.M. Return to the Marriott.

6:15 P.M. Board bus to Greensboro Country Club.

6:30 P.M. Cocktail Reception (Cash Bar).

7:30 P.M. Banquet Dinner (black tie optional or period costume). Guest Speaker: William

Snyder. *Charles Bruce and Other Heroes of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.*

9:30 P.M. Return to Marriott.

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SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

Breakfast on your own.

10:30 A.M. Church service at First Presbyterian Church, 617 Elm Street.

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HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We have rooms reserved at the Downtown Marriott in Greensboro, NC at a rate of \$85.00 per night. Please call and make your reservations early. Be sure to ask for the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence rate. The cut-off date is **February 22, 2008**. After this date, the hotel cannot guarantee you a room at this rate.

**Downtown Marriott
304 N. Greene Street
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-379-8000**

Bus transportation provided to all events. Parking and logistics make it necessary for everyone to ride the bus. It will not be necessary to rent a car. We suggest you bring a folding chair in a bag for the re-enactment as seats are not provided. We have an exciting weekend planned and look forward to seeing everyone in Greensboro!

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Other important reservation information has been mailed to all members.

WILLIAMSBURG

Continued from page 1

he thought of being elected President, he expressed his wonder at the ability to see into the future.

Following the presentation, there was ample time to wander back towards the Lodge before the next scheduled event – a reception on the Colony Terrace. The Virginia Society generously contributed to a very nice reception.

Friday dinner was a real treat. The meal was called a Virginia Fare supper, and was very well done. Following dinner, our guest speaker was Ben Franklin. He presented some of his insights into the shaping of the country and even reported that one of his favorite quotes was commonly misquoted – something about a penny earned.



The seating arrangements by Host Tommy enabled many families to sit together, and that was appreciated.

Saturday morning was the General Meeting. Our large number of attendees became apparent, as the large room for the meeting was completely packed, and folks were standing at the back of the room and in the doors leading into the room from the hallway. Following the business portion of the meeting, the DSDI Patriot Award was presented to Immediate Past-President Tomas G. Heyward. Tommy's hard work and dedication to DSDI are remarkable and will be remembered for years to follow. Thank you Tommy for all you did for DSDI.

After the General Meeting, we had the opportunity to take guided tours of Colonial Williamsburg. These tours were very informative. At numerous times during the tours, special characters approached many of the tour groups. Some of these characters had special abilities, and amazed members with displays of their special attributes.

We were treated to a very nice lunch, followed by a short talk from General George Washington after his victory at Yorktown. The General then opened the floor to questions. His on-the-fly answers to questions were quite amazing. He also expressed his amazement when he learned the he was to be the 1st President. He indicated the only thing he wanted to do after serving his country was to go back to Mt. Vernon and his wife.

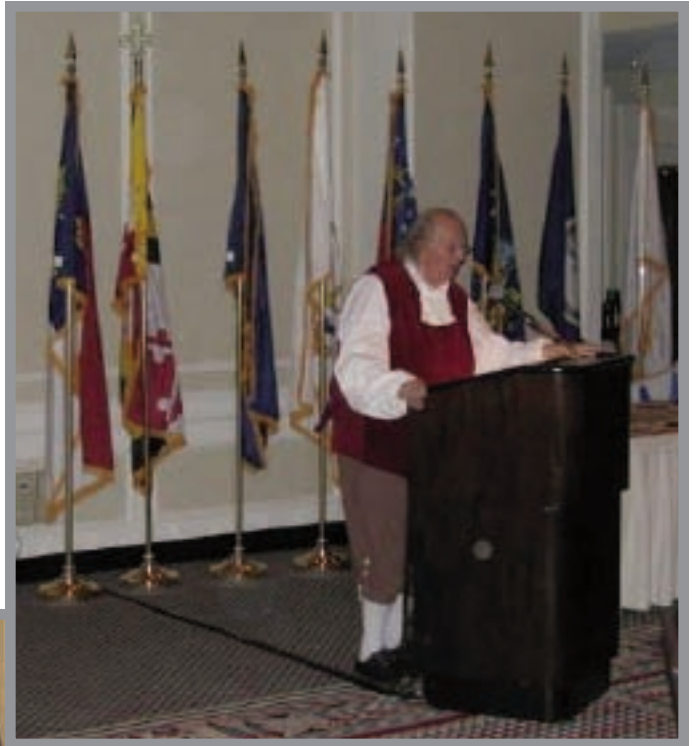
Following lunch, we had free time until dinner. DSDI members fanned out across the area taking advantage of numerous opportunities to increase awareness of Colonial history.

As darkness settled across Williamsburg, we proceeded to a reception in the Fountain Garden. Then, assembling again behind the fife and drum corps, we moved to our dinner location. Our speaker at the Dinner was President Jefferson. He had ridden in from Monticello to share a few moments with us. After his presentation, our wonderful weekend in Williamsburg came to a close.



Out going President-General Thomas Gaillard Heyward receiving the DSDI Patriot Award.





VIRGINIA





Part of the DSDI members at the General Meeting.



Thomas Jefferson at Willaimsburg Statehouse.



Thomas Jefferson in the Square.



Are you planning on going to the March 2008 meeting in Greensboro, NC? Do you have a video camera? Would you like to film the events? Well, when you check in Friday evening, notify Miles McCormick and he'll give you more detailed instructions.

A Eulogy for Thomas Gaillard Heyward

By Laura Heyward

I struggled with what to say today, because I could talk about Daddy for days and never run out of things to say. I might repeat some things or start a story and then go off on a long tangent before getting back to the original story, but, I am my father's daughter. I got it honestly. Everyone here knows the things that Tommy Heyward did. Many of us know the person he was. I would like to share a little bit about the person I called Dad.

Daddy was the best person I've ever known. This isn't to say that he was perfect, but I couldn't have asked for a better role model in life. He loved his family more than anything on this earth. He taught me that family sticks together - through the good times and the bad. He showed me, that no matter what, family always loves you.

Dad realized the importance of having a relationship with God, and made sure that he passed that on to me. Church attendance was mandatory, and soon became a love of mine as well. He loved this church and devoted so much of his life to serving the church and God and was proud of it.

Daddy was very proud of his family history. He made sure I learned all about where we came from. Recently, he gave a talk about the Heywards of South Carolina, in which he said, "It's a poor frog who won't praise his own pond." He was no poor frog. He told anyone who would listen all about the Heywards, and much more. I learned to be proud of who I am.

Bluffton held such a special place in Dad's heart. I remember him telling me so many stories of the good ol' days when he grew up here. He was always so happy when he remembered the way things used to be. He was also happy to see Bluffton's progress. On Sunday afternoon, he was talking about his ideas for a new Bluffton Town Hall. Even as tired as he was, I could still hear the excitement in his voice. I love this town because of him. The best Christmas present my dad ever gave me was a few years ago when the Bluffton Breeze first started. He gave me a framed poster of some of the magazine covers underneath the word "Bluffton" in big, bold print. I look at it and remember the town I grew up in, and the town I will return to one day.

I could keep going on and on about what Dad taught me in life, but the thing that inspired me the most was his love of life. Over the last few months, he never gave up hope. He still had plans for life on earth. He was always saying things like, "When I get better" and "When I get this beat" and followed with so many things he wanted to do. He loved his life here with everyone and had plans to make even more great things happen. There is a great lesson in this - keep on going, never give up. He never gave up. He fought until the moment when God called him to be with him in Heaven.

A friend sent me a poem that made me think Dad was talking to me and to everyone mourning his death here on earth. The message of the poem is letting us know that Dad knows we love him. He loves us too. He wanted to stay, but God took him by the hand to a much better place. While he may be gone from the earth in his physical form, he will forever live in the hearts of all those who knew and loved him.

Daddy understood that we would shed many tears and be filled with sadness, but he didn't want us to stay sad forever. He wanted to be remembered - I don't think we could ever forget him. We all have so many memories of him to hold on to, so many stories to share. Thomas Heyward was a man of many talents, a wise man who loved to share his knowledge, a Christian man who loved God and his church, a man who devoted himself to so many things, a friend you could always count on, a loving husband, and most of all, to me, the best daddy God could have given me.

2007 DSDI Scholarship Recipients

We are pleased to announce the 2007 Scholarship Recipients:

John Beck, Milton Beck, Elizabeth Brackbill, Maria Brownville, Anne Croft, Roswell Deutscher, Casey Godbout, Elise Gregory, Laura Hallett, Brittany Henk, Joseph Jailer-Coley, Kaz Kean, Carter Koppelman, Lawrence Lee, Edward Lundvall, Kathryn Lundvall, Emily Macfarlane, Brian McCormick, Charles McKean, Emily Mears, Anna Miller, Nicholas Morris, Kirsten Radcliffe, Morgan Shank, Peter Staller, Jillian Viar, Alicia Ward, Jeffrey Ward, William Ward, Brittany Wicks. At press time, we were waiting for 2 more people to accept our scholarships.



2008 DSDI Scholarship Information

In order to participate in this scholarship program, you ***must*** be a member of DSDI. If you are a descendant of a Signer, but not a member, **you must apply for membership and be approved by the Registrar-General before the Spring 2008 Meeting.** Application forms and instructions are at this link, <http://www.dsdi1776.com/Scholarship/scholarship.html>, or you may request the forms from the address at the end of this article. Please follow the instructions carefully and start the process now so you can be approved in time for the scholarship awards. The deadline for membership application is 15 February 2008.

If you have any questions regarding your member status, contact by sending an e-mail to webmaster@dsdi1776.com or in writing by mail to the address below. If you are a Life Member, Junior or Senior, complete the 2008 Application Form and Instructions. If you are a Senior Annual Member, your dues must be current. If you are interested in converting to a Senior Life status, contact the Registrar-General at registrar@dsdi1776.com. If you are a Junior Annual Member, you will need to convert to Senior status on your 18th birthday. Contact the Registrar-General at registrar@dsdi1776.com to complete this process.

The last day we will accept scholarship applications is March 31, 2008.

Signers Restoration and Recognition Project Report

The following Signers have plaques in place at their gravesites:

Josiah Bartlett, George Clymer, William Ellery, Benjamin Franklin, John Hart, Joseph Hewes, Stephen Hopkins, Samuel Huntington, Francis Lee Lightfoot, Philip Livingston, Thomas McKean, Robert Morris, John Morton, Caesar Rodney, George Ross, Benjamin Rush, James Wilson, John Witherspoon and Oliver Wolcott.

We hope to dedicate the following plaques in 2008:

Carter Braxton, Samuel Chase, Eldridge Gerry, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Lewis Morris, Edward Rutledge and George Wythe. We are planning to dedicate the plaques for William Hooper and John Penn at the March 2008 meeting.

We do not have permission to place plaques at the following graves so we will place cenotaphs instead:

Charles Carroll, Button Gwinnett, Arthur Middleton, Thomas Nelson and James Smith and Thomas Lynch.

In summary, 19 plaques have been installed and dedicated; 9 plaques are to be installed; 6 cenotaphs will be placed; 1 signer has a 1947 plaque that needs cleaning; and we are working on placing 21 plaques, for a total of 56 signers.

Respectfully,

Grace Staller, Chair

ANNUAL GIVING

Please consider making a cash gift to DSDI, Inc. in each calendar year. We are a volunteer organization. No members are paid for the considerable work necessary to carry on the regular business of this Society. Our dues and payments from the Life Dues Fund are used to pay for the always-increasing costs to do business, to communicate with our membership, and to undertake limited projects. Generally, you will find most non-profit organizations need Annual Giving from their members to further their work. We are asking for your support now as we approach our century anniversary.

Gifts of *any* amount will help us, and gifts of \$100+ will be recognized at the *Friends* level, \$250+ at the *Boosters* level, and \$500+ at the *Patriots* level.

Please respond, and save us the cost of mailing an individual letter of solicitation. Thank you in advance for this consideration.

Your check should be made payable to DSDI, Inc., and mailed to our Treasurer-General:

Dan McNamara
8507 Henrico Avenue
Richmond, VA 23229

An appreciative acknowledgement and receipt will be returned for your records.

NEW SIGNERS BIOGRAPHIES WRITTEN BY DSDI MEMBERS

Beginning with this issue of the Spirit '76, we will publish new biographies written by DSDI members. The order will be mostly alphabetical, but primarily Editor's choice. The paintings are from The National Parks Service website: http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/declaration/bioa.htm

BUTTON GWINNETT

Georgia

1732-1777



Button Gwinnett was born in 1732 in Gloucestershire, England, one of seven children of the Rev. Samuel and Anne Eames Gwinnett. The Gwinnett name was originally Gwynedd, a name of long standing from the northern part of Wales. His mother, Anne Eames, had prominent relatives in Herefordshire.

Not much is known of his formal education, but he was apprenticed to a merchant in the city of Bristol. There he married and became an exporter of goods from Bristol to America before 1760. He was the sole owner of the Brig "Nancy", but his mercantile business proved unsuccessful. When he became indebted locally his ship was seized and sold to pay his debts.

Allured by the promise of better days ahead in the colonies, he and his family sailed to Charleston in 1765, and he established himself as a trader there for a few years. Later he sold all his merchandise and moved to Savannah.

Then he purchased the island called St. Catherine's, a tract of land of 36 square miles off the coast of Georgia near the flourishing port of Sunbury, and became a planter. In this endeavor he became acquainted with a group of settlers who had come from New England to Sunbury. One of them was Lyman Hall, a future signer of the Declaration, who had re-settled there from Fairfield, Connecticut.

Through this friendship with Hall, Gwinnett developed an interest in politics. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1767-8, and in the next year he became a member of the Georgia Colonial Assembly. During the next five years financial or other problems seem to have prevented further involvement in public service.

He acquired property in St. John's Parish in 1772 but in the following year, creditors seized his properties. However, he was allowed to continue living in his home there for the rest of his life.

Mr. Gwinnett had from his earliest emigration to America taken a deep interest in the welfare of the colonies; but, from the commencement of the controversy with Great Britain, he had doubts that the cause of the colonies could succeed. In a letter to Roger Sherman, Lyman Hall wrote that he regarded Gwinnett at that time as a "Whig to excess." To Button, successful resistance to so mighty a power as that of the United Kingdoms appeared extremely doubtful. This continued to be his concern until about the year 1775, when Lyman Hall helped persuade him to change his views.

10 This change in his sentiments produced a corresponding change in his conduct. He now came forth as an

open advocate of strong and decided measures in favor of obtaining redress, if possible, of American grievances, and of establishing the rights of the colonies on a firm and enduring basis.

In the early part of the year 1776, he was elected by the General Assembly in Savannah, and to be a representative of the province of Georgia, in the Continental Congress. Agreeable to his appointment, he journeyed to Philadelphia and in the following month of May took his seat in the national council. While he is not known as a major player in the debates, John Adams noted that "Hall and Gwinnett are both intelligent and spirited men, who made a powerful addition to our Phalanx." Gwinnett voted for independence on July 2, for the declaration on July 4, and signed his name to the parchment of the Declaration of Independence on August 2. He returned to Savannah at the end of that month.

Gwinnett's ambition was to become a general of Georgia troops, but the man who would become his nemesis, Lachlan McIntosh, an experienced officer who in 1776 had repulsed the British assault at the Battle of the Rice Boats in the Savannah River, was appointed instead. He was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Continental Army and charged with the defense of Georgia's southern flank from British attacks from Florida. This incident was the beginning of a bitter quarrel between the two men that would ultimately lead to Gwinnett's death.

Failing in his military endeavors, Gwinnett ran for and was elected Speaker of the Georgia Assembly in October 1776, and was then re-elected to the Continental Congress. In the following months, he played an important role in drafting the first constitution for Georgia, and in preventing Georgia from being absorbed into South Carolina.

When the President of the Georgia Assembly, Archibald Bulloch, died on March 4, 1777, Gwinnett was immediately elevated to fill his position, effectively becoming Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Army. This achievement was a great honor for Gwinnett, and demonstrated that he was held in high public esteem for his ability and integrity.

On that same day he was directed by the Council of Safety to draft militia and volunteers for a campaign against the British in east Florida, the objective being to cut off supplies to their stronghold at St. Augustine. He was also informed, by letter from John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress then in session in Baltimore, about treasonable acts by George McIntosh, a member of the Georgia Assembly and a brother of General Lachlan McIntosh. Gwinnett ordered General McIntosh to arrest his own brother and place him in irons, and ordered McIntosh to lead what turned out to be a poorly planned and poorly led military expedition. Both Gwinnett and McIntosh publicly blamed each other for the failure of the campaign further straining their relationship.

Both McIntosh brothers were furious at and envious of the new

governor. Gwinnett was exonerated from fault in the failed expedition by an inquest, but lost his bid for re-election as Governor. On May 1, 1777 Lachlan McIntosh addressed the Georgia assembly denouncing Gwinnett in the harshest of terms, proclaiming him "a scoundrel and a lying rascal". Gwinnett called on McIntosh and demanded an apology or satisfaction, and when McIntosh refused Gwinnett challenged him to a duel.

On May 16, 1777 a pistol duel took place in Sir James Wright's pasture a few miles east of Savannah. The engagement took place with a distance of only 12 feet separating the antagonists. Both men were wounded, but Gwinnett died within a few days of a gangrene infection from his wound on May 27, 1777. He might well have said, as did the lamented Alexander Hamilton when fatally wounded in his duel with Aaron Burr: "I have lived like a man, but have died like a fool".

McIntosh was charged with murder but he was acquitted in the ensuing trial. Fearing Gwinnett's allies would take revenge on McIntosh, George Washington ordered him to report to Continental Army headquarters on October 10 and he spent the winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Thus fell Button Gwinnett, one of the patriots of the revolution. Though entitled to the gratitude of his country for the services which he rendered her, her citizens will ever lament that he fell victim to a false ambition, and to a false sense of honor.

In appearance, Mr. Gwinnett was tall and with a noble and commanding appearance. In his temper he was irritable, yet in his language he was mild. In his manners he was polite and graceful. Happy would it have been for him had his ambition been tempered with more prudence; and happy for his country had his political career not been terminated in the prime of life.

Button Gwinnett married Ann Bourne in Staffordshire, England, on April 19, 1757. She was the daughter of Aaron Bourne, a Wolverhampton grocer. They had 4 children, all daughters, three of whose births were recorded in the Collegiate Church in Wolverton. Three of his daughters died young without issue. The fourth, Elizabeth Ann (Betsy) Gwinnett, was baptized January 4, 1762 and died about 1786. She married Peter Belin on March 26, 1779, but there were no surviving issue.

The name and memory of Button Gwinnett live on in many ways, such as in Gwinnett County, GA, named for him; in the Button Gwinnett District of the Boy Scouts of America in Atlanta; in the Button Gwinnett Elementary School in Hinesville, GA; in the Button Gwinnett Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Lawrenceville, GA; et al.

The State of Georgia built a large memorial in its capital city in 1848, Augusta, to the memory of the three Signers from Georgia; and, in 1955 his bust was one of the first three placed in the Georgia Hall of Fame, the accompanying busts being those of Georgia's two other signers.

A monument in Savannah's downtown Cemetery in Colonial Park marks the site of Gwinnett's grave, though the exact location is not known because the tombstone was lost when

Union cavalry camped there in the Civil War and vandalized or destroyed many grave markers.

This patriot died leaving an insolvent estate; but his signature today is very rare among the Signers. Collectors have paid many thousands of dollars to own it!

Edited for DSDI by member Rieman McNamara, Jr., 2007

Drawing: Detail from the lithograph "Signers of the Declaration of Independence," published by 1876 by Ole Erekson, Library of Congress. The detail is a conjectural representation; no portrait or reliable likeness of Button Gwinnett is known to exist.



Josiah Bartlett **New Hampshire** **1729-1795**

Josiah Bartlett was born on November 21, 1729 at Amesbury, Massachusetts, the seventh and youngest child of Stephen and Hannah (Webster) Bartlett. His great great grandfather, Richard Bartlett, came to America in 1635 and was one of the first settlers of Newbury, Massachusetts. The Bartlett ancestry in England has been traced back to the Norman Conquest in 1066.

Josiah received some formal education from the Amesbury schoolmaster, and acquired a knowledge of Greek and Latin under the tutelage of a relative, Reverend Doctor John Webster. When he was sixteen Bartlett began the study of medicine at Amesbury in the office of Dr. James Ordway, and used the libraries of Dr. Ordway and neighboring towns to supplement his medical knowledge.

In 1750, at the age of 21, he moved 10 miles north to Kingston, New Hampshire and began to practice medicine, where he built up a substantial practice as an all around country doctor. Bartlett gained recognition locally by successfully treating diphtheria patients with a new procedure, Peruvian bark (quinine), and by the application of cooling liquids to temper fever. He became renowned for relying on observation and experimentation in the diagnosis and treatment of his patients.

Soon after arriving in Kingston, in 1754, Josiah married Mary Bartlett, his first cousin, and they had twelve children, eight of whom lived to adulthood.

Growing in stature and reputation, Bartlett was elected town selectman in 1757. He became much interested in public affairs, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his intelligence and integrity, chose him to represent Kingston in the Provincial Assembly in 1765. In this position he generally supported colonial interests, raised the Seventh Militia Regiment, and served as the liaison between the New Hampshire Provincial Assembly and Royal Governor Benning Wentworth during the Stamp Act controversy in 1765. Hoping to enlist Bartlett's support in the royalist cause, Royal Governor John

SIGNERS, CONTINUED

Wentworth appointed him justice of the peace in 1767 and soon thereafter a lieutenant commander of the Seventh Regiment.

By 1774 Bartlett had become an active patriot and a supporter of the colonial cause, and was appointed to the Committee of Correspondence of the Provincial Assembly. He was one of two delegates chosen to represent New Hampshire in the First Continental Congress, but was unable to accept when his home was burned down, an event blamed on loyalists who opposed his patriotic endeavors. In May 1774 he became a member of the Committee of Safety, and in February 1775, Governor Benning Wentworth dismissed him from all of his appointed offices for his open resistance to the Crown. Two months later, when hostilities broke out at Lexington and Concord, Governor Wentworth fled from New Hampshire, boarding a British warship.

In 1775 and 1776 Bartlett was again chosen as a delegate to the Continental Congress, where he was among the most active delegates, serving on committees dealing with secret correspondence, marine affairs, medicine, clothing, and the qualifications of army officers. In November 1775 he wrote, "May the Supreme Disposer of all Events in Due time put an End to the troubles of america & Settle her Liberties on a Solid foundation."

Before the Congress convened again in February 1776 he wrote, "The time is now at hand when we shall see whether America has virtue enough to be free or not." He was the first to vote in favor of adopting the Declaration of Independence and was the second to sign, after John Hancock, a month later. In voting for independence, tradition has it that "He made the rafters shake with the loudness of his approval."

In June 1776 Bartlett was appointed by the Congress to the drafting committee of the Articles of Confederation, the country's first constitution, and was the first to vote for and sign it in 1778. In June 1776 he wrote as follows about the Committee, "I have been for about a week on a Committee of one member from Each Colony to form a Confederation or Charter of firm & Everlasting Union of all the United Colonies. It is a matter of the greatest Consequence & requires the greatest Care in forming it. May God grant us wisdom to form a happy Constitution, as the happiness of america to all future Generations Depend on it." He was absent from Congress for a time in 1777 when he joined General Stark in Vermont to furnish New Hampshire troops and the wounded there with medical supplies and assistance after the American victory at the Battle of Bennington.

Leaving Philadelphia in 1778 due to ill health Bartlett began another career in New Hampshire as a jurist. He served as judge of the common pleas from 1779 to 1782, becoming an associate justice of the Superior Court in 1782, and was named Chief Justice of the Court in 1788.

In 1788 Bartlett was a delegate to the New Hampshire State Convention, where he served as an effective advocate, using his influence and stature to help secure the State's ratification of the U. S. Constitution in 1788 in a close vote.

Elected to the new U.S. Senate from New Hampshire in 1789 Bartlett declined to serve, probably due to his age (60) and the weight of his legal duties. But in 1790 he was elected chief executive of New Hampshire. He served for four years, the first two as President, and then Governor, in 1792, when the title was redesignated.

In 1790 Dr. Bartlett received an honorary degree of doctor of medicine from Dartmouth College, and in 1791 he secured a charter from the legislature to establish the New Hampshire Medical Society. He wrote the constitution and the by-laws and served as its first elected President. Three of his children and seven of his grandchildren followed in his medical footsteps and became doctors. He served as an Elector for New Hampshire in the national election of 1792.

Bartlett's colleagues described him as tall, well built, with a fine figure and auburn hair. His manner was dignified, kind and compassionate. His mode of living was unpretentious. Reared a Calvinist he turned later to the Universalist Church. It was said of him that "He rose to office and was recommended by his fellow citizens, not less by the probity of his character, than the force of his genius. But standing on his own merits, he passed through a succession of offices which he sustained with uncommon honor to himself, and the duties which he discharged not only to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens, but with the highest benefit to his country." The editor of his papers, Meyers, wrote: "Bartlett's love of family, friendship with neighbors, respect for colleagues, and faith in God are apparent in his letters."

In 1794 Bartlett retired, sending this message to the Legislature: "I now find myself so far advanced in life that it will be expedient for me, at the close of the session, to retire from the cares and fatigues of public business to the repose of a private life, with the grateful sense of the repeated marks of trust and confidence that my fellow-citizens have reposed in me, and with my best wishes for the future peace and prosperity of the State."

Josiah Bartlett died on May 19, 1795 and is buried in the Universalist Plains Church cemetery in Kingston. There is a boulder and plaque in Amesbury marking the site of the house where Josiah was born in 1729. A copy of Bartlett's original oil portrait, painted by Jonathan Trumbull, hangs in the State House at Concord, New Hampshire. An imposing bronze statue of Bartlett stands in a small park on the south road into Amesbury, Massachusetts, with a plaque listing many highlights of his life.

His home, located opposite the green in the center of Kingston, and lived in for over two centuries by some of his descendants, is an historic landmark, with a large spreading oak tree growing in front which Bartlett brought back from Philadelphia in the 1770s. Many of his artifacts and belongings, including his medical kit, were still in the house (in 1989).

Edited for DSDI by member Thornton Calef Lockwood

Drawing: Oil, 1871, by Caroline Weeks, after John Trumbull, Independence National Historical Park.

DSDI - REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Fall Meeting, October 2007, Williamsburg, VA

7 New Senior Members

2868 Ann Woods Cutchins John
LM 5906 Ocean Front WITHERSPOON
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

2900 Nancy McBride Wark John HART
783 Blossom Hill Road
Los Gatos, CA 95032-3502

2901 Nathaniel Thomas Looker Richard
3301 Twana Drive Henry LEE
Des Moines, IA 50310-4931

2902 James S. Woods, III John
4525 E. Laurel Drive NE
Seattle, WA 98105-3838 WITHERSPOON

2903 Ian McLain Hawkrigde Arthur
LM 100 Crestview Court MIDDLETON
Chestertown, MD 21620-9289 From
Jr # 921

2904 Stephen Craig Coley, Jr. Francis LEWIS
42 Francis Ave, Apt. 3
Cambridge, MA 02138-1939

2905 Caroline Merritt Crawford Thomas
26 River Cypress Ln NELSON, Jr.
Madisonville, LA 70447-3413

2 New Junior Members

1262 Leann Nicole Jensen 9th of John HART

1263 William Legier Crawford 8th of
Thomas NELSON, Jr.

10 New Junior Supplements

1240 Chris Belman William ELLERY

1240 Chris Belman Oliver WOLCOTT

1241 Anneke E. Belman William ELLERY

1241 Anneke E. Belman Oliver WOLCOTT

1242 Brendan R. Belman William ELLERY

1242 Brendan R. Belman Oliver WOLCOTT

1243 Joseph Wister Belman William ELLERY

1243 Joseph Wister Belman Oliver WOLCOTT

1243 Thomas Chase Belman William ELLERY

1243 Thomas Chase Belman Oliver WOLCOTT

3 Reinstatements

1384 Page Fisher Dimos Thomas
NELSON, JR.

2035 Katheryn Nelson DeWitt Fischer
Thomas NELSON, JR.

2242 Ellen Eleanor Castleman Looker
Richard Henry LEE

3 Resignations

1081 William Ward, IV John MORTON

2299 Elizabeth Jumelle Haile Rogers
John WITHERSPOON

2450 Mrs. Frederick Carrington
Thomas NELSON, JR.

0 Senior Members Dropped for Delinquency

0 Junior Members Dropped for Delinquency

(over 18, did not yet transfer)

10 Change to Life Membership

- 2225 Frederick E. Leadbetter, Jr
John WITHERSPOON
- 2319 Peter D. Staller John HART
- 2327 Robert M. Britton Josiah BARTLETT
- 2345 Mrs. Elizabeth D. Leustek
John WITHERSPOON
- 2723 Milton Joseph Beck
Philip LIVINGSTON
- 2725 John Livingston Beck
Philip LIVINGSTON
- 2758 Elizabeth Blake Brackbill
Arthur MIDDLETON
- 2802 Lawrence Mackay Lee
Arthur MIDDLETON
- 2839 Wally Grove Francis John MORTON
- 2842 Charlotte Purcell Nelson
Thomas NELSON, JR.

5 Deaths

- 2741 Mrs. Louise K. Alexander John
d. 9 Aug 2007 WITHERSPOON
- 2605 Mrs. Murrell Brockenbrough Copeland
d. 3 May 2007 Carter BRAXTON
- 1723 Mrs. Minerva Kuhn
d. 25 Aug 2002 Frances HOPKINSON
- 2108 Edith R. S. Lippincott
d. 9 Jul 2007 Richard Henry LEE
- 1217 Franklin Wyman, Jr.
d. 19 Apr 2007 Matthew THORNTON

Summary: Society Status

Last Senior Number: last Report: 2899

Last Junior Number: last Report: 1261

New Senior Member Applications:
(5 plus 1 Junior Transfer)=6

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| John HART | 1 |
| Francis LEWIS | 1 |
| Richard Henry LEE | 1 |
| Thomas NELSON, Jr. | 1 |
| Arthur MIDDLETON | 1 |
| John WITHERSPOON | 2 |

| <u>Seniors</u> | | <u>Juniors</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1007 | Total Membership, Last Report | 186 |
| 6 | New Members | 2 |
| | New Supplements | 10 |
| | (does not increase # of Members) | |
| 1 | Junior Transfer to Senior | -1 |
| -3 | Resignation/Drop | 0 |
| | (including non-transferring Juniors) | |
| 3 | Reinstatement | 0 |
| -5 | Deaths | 0 |
| 1009 | Total Membership, This Report | 187 |
| 2 | Total Net Added this Report | 1 |

Total Life Members as of this report:
Seniors = 559, Juniors= 109, Total = 668

Last Senior Number, this Report: 2905

Last Junior Number, this Report: 1263

Total Membership, this Report:

Seniors =1009, Juniors, 187

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Alexander

Jim Alexander
Register-General, DSDI
19 Oct 2007

DSDI Biography Project Update

HELP WANTED!

DSDI descendants, spouses and friends of the Society have stepped forward and volunteered to write short biographies of 41 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Many of these biographies will be completed in time for publication in the 2008 Centennial Book of the Society. All will be posted on the DSDI website in perpetuity.

Only 15 signers remain without a volunteer biographer. All of them are great men who lived extraordinary lives and helped to launch the American republic. They are William Ellery, Elbridge Gerry, Benjamin Harrison, Stephen Hopkins, Francis Hopkinson, Samuel Huntington, Thomas Jefferson, Thomas McKean, Roger Sherman, James Smith, George Taylor, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton, William Williams and James Wilson.

These signers are needy—they are in need of YOU. This is a unique opportunity for you to make a contribution to a signer's legacy in your own lifetime. When your biography is finished, and signed by you, it will go up on the DSDI website and remain there forever.

Our research leading up to this Project showed that a volunteer biographer needs to consult only three sources (two readily available books and one website) to write a first class, short biography of a signer. We have prepared a content guideline document that will help you get started. It will tell you where to go to get the information you need, what is available in the three key resources you need, and other helpful hints.

If you would like to volunteer to write for any of these great American statesmen, or have any questions, just let me know.

Any one of them would be pleased to be remembered, and honored, by you.

Thornton C. Lockwood
Secretary-General, DSDI and Co-Chairman of the DSDI Biography Project
17 Duck Pond Road
Demarest, NJ 07627
Tel: 201-768-1338
Email: thornylock@aol.com

Proposed Future Meetings

Mar 2008

Greensboro, NC

Jul 2008

Philadelphia, PA

Oct 2008

Portland, Maine

D.S.D.I.

James H. Alexander
7157 SE Reed College Place
Portland, OR 97202

Address Service Requested

Presorted
First-Class Mail
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