

SPIRIT OF '76



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

DSDI Plaque dedicated at gravesite of Signer, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Grace Staller in carrying out the DSDI's mission to place memorial

plaques on as many of the Signer's gravesites as possible, on June 6, 2009, the Virginia Society of DSDI presented a wreath commemorating the placement of the DSDI plaque on the gravesite of Virginia Signer, Richard Henry Lee. Whereas historic Stratford Hall on the



Bill Duke & Laurie Croft Potomac River in Westmoreland County, Virginia is identified with two Signers from Virginia, Richard Henry Lee and Light Horse Harry Lee (father of Robert E. Lee), Richard Henry Lee's gravesite is in a small family cemetery located some 17.5 miles east of there in a beautiful rural setting called Burnt House Field. Laurie Croft, President of the Virginia Society accompanied by his wife Susan, opened the ceremony. Remarks were made by Ken McFarland, Director of Education at Stratford Hall, Carter Refo, President of the Society of the Lee's of Virginia, Virginia Brown, President of the Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society. Bill Duke, a Past President of the Virginia Society of DSDI and a direct Lee descendant, presented a specially prepared biography on Richard Henry Lee. Afterwards, Bill and Laurie placed a DSDI wreath at the gravesite. Ken

McFarland placed a wreath as well made from the local greenery at Stratford Hall.



At a gravesite surrounded by fields of amber waves of grain, it was appropriate to conclude the ceremony with singing *America the Beautiful*. Bill Duke brought his wife, Fran, and two daughters, DSDI and Lee Society members, Margaret Lundvall and Lucy Tonacci who provided tea and cookies. Page Laubach Warden, a Past President of the Virginia Society was accompanied by her son, Bruce Laubach, current Vice President of the Virginia Society, his wife Margaret, and their daughter, Monica Page, and son, Robert, who graciously led us in song. Interestingly, on the day we honored a man who signed the document stating that Americans would

no long live under the yoke of an oppressor, on the Normandy beaches of France, Americans were being honored for their D-Day sacrifices to save Europe from tyranny.

Lawrence "Laurie" M. Croft



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

Dear DSDI members,

It was an excellent meeting in Savannah!
Our tour of the Wormsloe Plantation, beautiful and informative. Our formal dinner at the Chatham Club, and yes, the low country buffet was as good as anticipated.

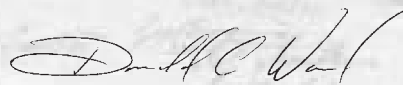
Now we are turning our sites on the Philadelphia Meeting. Our annual meeting in Independence Hall is the DSDI's hallowed ground. We are honored to be able to have our meeting in this historic building. We are also looking forward to having our Jr. members participate in the bell tapping ceremony as well as the dinner. Steve Sitarski will once again be speaking to our group about INDEPENDENCE HALL. Steve, as a member of the park service, has been the voice of our signers to the visitors for many years.

I also want to thank those of you who have participated in our Gifting program. Thank you for your generosity, especially during this volatile economic time.

As many of you already know, my dad William Ward the 4th, passed away on May 4th. Dad was an active member of the DSDI and devoted many hours to our society. In his memory, our family would like to set up a fund for the management of the scholarship program. This project was very important to him, and we know he would be honored.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,



Donald Crosset Ward,
President General



Our Missing Members

I am frequently asked by members why a particular name is showing up as missing on our missing members' web page. I usually get an irate letter or email asking how I could have lost the person. Here are some of the possibilities:

We send out member mail pieces to our senior members at least six times a year. Each mailing will see from 2-4% of the pieces returned to the Registrar General (R-G) with various addressing problems.. Some of the pieces will provide us with a new address. Some of the pieces will say that the forwarding time as expired but the forwarding address will be included. When we get these, the R-G notifies the mail house of the new address and enters the new address into our member database. Some of the pieces will come back with "Addressee not known, no forwarding address available" or "Delivery Refused". When we get these notifications, the R-G will first go to the database and try to make phone contact. We get three or four pieces each mailing that the USPS sends back in error. Then the R-G goes to the internet search engines to see if he can come up with a new address. Sometimes he is lucky and we get a new "good" address. Most of the time, we come up empty handed. The next step is to determine if the member has died. The R-G looks at the birth date of the "Unknown addressee". If the birth date indicates a member over 80 years old, he then checks the Social Security Death Index. On occasion, this has been the way in which we learn of a member's demise. In this case, we adjust our data base and mail list. When all these approaches fail, we add the members name and birth date to our missing members' web page. The names on this page will show up in a Google search if the members name is entered in the Google (or other) search field.

The junior members have a slightly different problem. For many of the juniors, the address of record is from 15-18 years old and was on infant applications submitted by grandparents. Our

records do make a connection between the grandparent sponsor and the junior member. But in the course of 18 or so years, grandparents disappear for one reason or another, so we are faced with trying to contact a junior member for which we have no good leads. Sometimes, the parents are not current members, so we have not picked up on address changes.

The by-laws state "Junior members who do not apply for Senior Member status by their twenty-first birthday shall be dropped from membership and must re-apply for membership again". The R-G makes every effort to contact the "missing" juniors. If the junior member is not found, the name is entered on the "Missing Members" web page. Our junior members are web-savvy and they will let me know of their current address.

So, if you see your name, or the name of a family member, on the missing member list, send me a good current address and we will set things straight. We have also found that having an e mail for a member is a good second path to the member to ask why his mail is bouncing back to the R-G. As of spring 2009, we had 245 e mail addresses for 1051 active Senior members (23%). If you have moved, drop me an email or note with your new address information. If you know of the death of a family member, drop me an email or note with the date and location. If you have an email address, share it with the R-G. We do not share the mail or address lists with anyone except on an as needed basis with our mail house.

Finally, please remember that we have no paid staff; all these tasks are done by a volunteer R-G and Treasurer. I cannot speak for Mrs. McNamara, but I can tell you that Mrs. Alexander thinks 30 hours of desk time is not good from her other half. Anything you can do to reduce that desk time is much appreciated by her.

James H. Alexander, Jr.,
Registrar-General

Missing Member List as of April, 2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
James A. C. Berger	23 Jun 1984
Aaron T. Brack	19 May 1982
Barbara L. Bradley	10 Jan 1932
Karen M. Braxton	25 Sep 1965
Sara M. Braxton	6 Apr 1973
Marshall A. Burke	9 Oct 1958
Debra Ann Cail	28 Apr 1966
John W. Card, III	17 Sep 1955
John S. Chatfield	26 Jan 1933
Cynthia Coleman	15 Sep 1942
Stephen C. Coley, Jr.	16 May 1971
James C. Gardner	18 Jan 1957
Mary K. Goodwin	30 Apr 1944
David B. Griffith	29 Jul 1982
Catherine R. Harvey	12 Jun 1973
Laura A. Heyward	6 Feb 1984
Rebecca M. Heyward	3 Apr 1985
Ellen R. Hill	19 Apr 1978
Samuel D. Hopkins	22 May 1943
Ann S. Howard	10 May 1943
Sallie W. Jackson	31 May 1948
Susan E. Kirk	27 Sep 1990
Alicia D. Klatt, Jr.	13 Jul 1933
Gwendolyn B. Klein	15 Dec 1953
Emily Elizabeth Laubach	10 Sep 1980
Erin Light	8 Oct 1975
William R. McKenna	24 Apr 1969
William H. B. Moore	19 Nov 1962
Kyle Jared Mulford	2 Dec 1982
Elizabeth J. Nichols	26 Aug 1944
Vanna Kay Oberholz	16 May 1975
Mary A. Page	24 Oct 1969
Beatrice Alzira Pyle	21 May 1922
Edward W. Pyne	8 Aug 1990
Cathy J. Reed	10 Jan 1960
Randolph B. Roulette	1 Nov 1980
James D. Savage	20 Sep 1957
Kendall M. Sealy	6 Oct 1992
Marylou J. W. Schletter	6 Jun 1932
Stephen G. Strong	13 Jan 1933
Hanna M. Strong	7 Nov 1994
Karen W. Tam	20 Oct 1959
Vincent M. F. Tam	14 May 1987
James W. Waller	7 May 1935
James B. Wood	15 Mar 1975

THE LIBERTY BELL

By: James Hervey Otey

With ponderous strokes in days of yore
 its bell awoke Columbia's shore
 in tones that spoke as brave, as clear
 as those who herald Paul Revere
 who rode thro' the night of gathering gloom
 to sound the notes of England's doom
 Ah ! There' mid smoke , and cannon roar:
 Broken the yoke our father's bore
 The morning woke from tyrants free
 Our sires who dwelt besides the sea.
 Now to the the world, now to the *new* times tell
 Of Liberty's day. Old Bell ! Old Bell
 Speak out, with strong undaunted voice
 And say ere long each monarchs throne
 Will fall beneath the unhand stone,
 From pebble grown. Till sky and sea
 Proclaim the world is free
 Though powers of hell and earth engage
 To buy and sell our heritage
 Yet sounds the spell that's on thy *tongue*
 The old inspired Prophets *sung*
 Throughout the rolling would proclaim
 To eerie tribe that bears the name
 With bolder stroke then call again
 The hearts of oaks from hill and plain
 The gist invoke with thunder clime
 Of Liberty of every clime
 Till America's twinkling stare I have gleamed
 On Assai plain and Africa's stream,
 No *human* Hand has weighted thy price
 To every land the message given
 (Because it is the voice of Heaven)
 Shall teach each heart of man and woman
 To know all God's people are human
 Who safely dwell in Tennessee.
 Now we proudly tell our hundred years
 And free from all colonial years
 Would gladly see thy Quaker face
 Appear at our centennial place.

Editor's note: The above poem, date unknown, by Bishop Otey was transcribed from an original document by Page Laubach Warden. Bishop Otey is Page's second great grandfather on her father's side. Page came to know him in compiling and writing THE KIN PATCH II. Her biography of Bishop Otey follows.

James Hervey Otey 1800-1863



James Hervey Otey was born 27 January 1800 in Liberty, Virginia (now Bedford, VA). The Otey family immigrated to Virginia in 1618. His grandfather, James Armistead Otey, fought in the Revolution and his father, Isaac Otey, fought in the War of 1812. The Oteys were considered responsible citizens. His mother was Elizabeth Matthews. Her family came to the Valley of Virginia about 1720 from Ulster, Ireland. Her father fought in the French and Indian wars and five of her brothers fought in the Revolution and were at the battles of Germantown, Guildford, Cowpens and Yorktown.

James had no formal religious background before attending the University of North Carolina. He was the youngest man to enter the University, where he came under the tutelage of Bishop Ravenscroft and William Mercer Green. They influenced him to go into the ministry. James was a teacher first and foremost and a strong advocate of women's education. He was a great friend of Matthew Fontaine Maury. James was the third youngest man to be Ordained as a Bishop in the Episcopal Church. He was 33/34 years old and was Ordained in Christ Church, Philadelphia. He was Bishop of Tennessee, acting Bishop of Alabama, Louisiana, part of Mississippi and the Oklahoma Territory; in fact, his wife's cousin General Zachary Taylor gave him Military escort into the Oklahoma Territory.

He was born just 17 years after the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and so the pride of Freedom ran strong in his veins. He corresponded with the Secretary of War over the situations that lead to the Civil War. He was one of the prime movers in the founding of the University of the South, better known as Sewanee; however, he removed himself as a founder of assure the success of the school.

I have several good pictures of him, one an original oil in his full Bishop's regalia and one that I am especially fond of: he looks like the late Farley Grainger. He was described as a Neolithic Druid!

Page Laubach Warden

July 4 Biography Awards

This year, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence will recognize DSDI members and friends who have completed a biography of a signer of the Declaration. Thirty authors so far have earned an award—an impressive medal and a citation—for having completed one or more of these biographies. With these awards, the Society will acknowledge and express its deep gratitude to these volunteers who have made this generous contribution to the history and resources of the Society.

We hope you will join us on July 4 in celebrating this significant moment in DSDI history.

SAVANNAH

Spring Meeting in Savannah, Georgia

One of the activities during the spring meeting was a visit to Wormsloe Plantation, 10 miles outside of Savannah. Wormsloe



Plantation was established in 1737 by Noble Jones one of the first British colonists in the area. The site includes a plantation house built by Jones' grandson in 1828, a detached library, the ruins of a fortified house, a mile-long drive bordered by large oaks, and Confederate earthworks. The surviving ruins of the original house are one of the only remaining examples of fortified houses once common through-

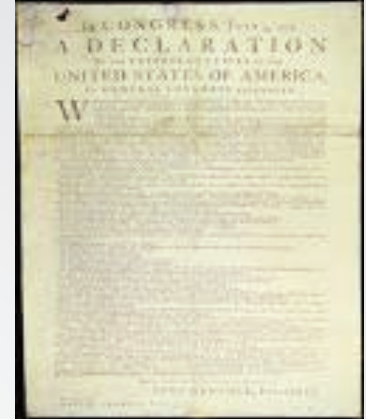


out coastal Georgia. This is an example of the terrific tours that are always a special part of the fall or spring meeting activities. If you haven't attended one for awhile, think about signing up for the fall 2009 or spring 2010 meeting! These gorgeous photos were provided by Bob and Virginia Amiss.



The 1776 Historical Fog

On the afternoon of July 4, 1776, soon after the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, a dense historical fog descended on Philadelphia. So said Secretary-General Thornton Lockwood in a presentation given at the Portland DSDI meeting last October 18, 2008. The next morning, on July 5, 1776 the fog lifted, he said, to reveal the first published version of the Declaration of Independence, several hundred copies of the now famous Dunlap Broadside.



Mr. Lockwood distributed a photocopy of the Broadside, a document which had been typeset and printed by John Dunlap, the official printer for the Continental Congress. The document announced for the first time the new name of the country, "The United States of America." The Broadside carried the printed name of John Hancock (but not his signature), with the assertion that he had signed it, and that it had been attested to by the Congressional Secretary, Charles Thomsen.

Surprisingly, no physical evidence survives to this day to show that anyone actually signed anything during this two day fog. Mr. Lockwood said that this raised a question of "Who (if anyone) signed what (if anything) on July 4 (or July 5)?"

He then reviewed a number of opinions and speculations by historians and authorities who had tried peering into the fogbank to determine what actually took place during this 24 hour period.

Mr. Lockwood concluded his presentation in a flight of whimsy, by reading a "just discovered" letter from John Dunlap to his mother, in which he told his mother everything that happened during the fog.

Submissions Needed

If you would like to have your chapter's activities publicized or other activities recognized in the Spirit, please email your articles and photos to kkurtz@atlanticbb.net. Articles should be in Word format or can be sent as a PDF. Please include a caption with each photo.

Kathleen Kurtz, editor.

New Works about The Signers

Available June, 2009 is a book by Joseph D'Agnes and Denise Karman. Their website, www.signingawaytheirlives.com, describes the book as follows:

In 1776, fifty-six men risked their lives and livelihoods to defy King George III and signed the most important document in the history of the United States. *Signing Their Lives Away* tells the story of the eclectic group of statesmen, soldiers, and scoundrels who signed this historic document—and the strange fates that awaited them.

A documentary film is also in production, *Revolutionary Road Trip*. You can follow progress at www.revolutionaryroadtrip.com

DSDI - REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

General Meeting: April 2009, Savannah, GA

36 New Senior Members

2970 LM	Douglas Joshua Scordino*	Philip Livingston
2971 LM	Anne Corbin Blackwell*	William Paca
2972 LM	Emily Latham Woods	John Witherspoon
2973	Anson Boulton Herrick, Jr.	John Morton
2974	Elizabeth LaBruce Lambertson	
		Thomas Heyward, Jr.
2975	Katherine Flowers Lambertson	
		Thomas Heyward, Jr.
2976 LM	Peyton Andrew Schmick*	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
2977	David Birkett Haimes	John Hart
2978	John Brooks Homans*	John Adams
2979 LM	Ben Hugh Phillips, II	Abraham Clark
2980 LM	Alan Monroe Phillips	Abraham Clark
2981 LM	Paul Clinton Gregory*	John Hart
2982	Brittany Ann Corson*	John Hart
2983	Peter Joseph Laciano	John Hart
2984	Jonathan Marshall Morris*	Robert Morris
2985 LM	Layne Adair Deutscher, Jr.	George Read
2986 LM	John Davies McKean*	George Clymer
2987	Stephanie Jane Quarles*	Josiah Bartlett
2988 LM	Christine Marie Bader*	John Hart
2989 LM	John William Reed, Jr.	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
2990 LM	Kathryn Reed Sharon	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
2991 LM	Sarah Reed Carter	Thomas Nelson, Jr.
2992	Parker Adams Koppelman	Carter Braxton
2993	Emily Fisher Koppelman	Carter Braxton
2994	Michael Steven McConnell*	Arthur Middleton
2995	William Tucker Weston	William Hooper
2996	Robert Clarke Rainey	William Hooper
2997	Caroline Gabrey Rainey	William Hooper
2998 LM	Anne Catherine Ward*	John Morton
2999	Caroline Virginia Hallett	Carter Braxton
3000	Jessica Lynn Munch	Thomas Heyward, Jr.
3001 LM	Tyler Morton Dillion**	John Morton
3002	Sarah Christina Livingston	Philip Livingston
3003 LM	Margaret Smith Paca*	William Paca
3004	Deborah Lea Plattsmier	Josiah Bartlett
3005	William Wylde Warman	Thomas Nelson, Jr.

* Junior Upgrade

** Older Junior Upgrade

9 New Junior Members

1294	Jeffrey Marin Lewis	Josiah Bartlett
1295	Risa Anne Lewis	Josiah Bartlett
1296	Jack Brophy Hawes	John Hart
1297	Meghan Millet Hawes	John Hart
1298	Elizabeth Ravenscroft Barrow	Arthur Middleton
1299	Victoria Ravenscroft Barrow	Arthur Middleton
1300	Julia Frances Ravenscroft Barrow	
		Arthur Middleton
1301	David Crenshaw Barrow, V	Arthur Middleton
1302	John Reid Weston	William Hooper

0 New Senior Supplements

0 New Junior Supplements

4 Upgrade to Life Membership

2935	Leann Jensen	John Hart
2588	Margaret Ruth Palmer	Josiah Bartlett
2305	Braeton Dillion Beres	John Morton
3001	Tyler Morton Dillon	John Morton

3 Reinstatements

1443	Alburta Martin Daugette Lowe	Arthur Middleton
		Edward Rutledge
2035 LM	Braeton Lee Beres	John Morton
2553	Mary Kinney Lowe Corley	Arthur Middleton
		Edward Rutledge

0 Resignations

0 Senior Members Dropped for Delinquency

0 Junior Members Dropped for Delinquency (over 18, did not yet transfer)

11 Deaths

0804	Wilhelmina Laird Craven	Richard Henry Lee
	31 Jul 2008	
1101	Virginia Armistead Brent	Robert Morris
	27 Feb 2007	
1147	Sarah S. Lynch	Arthur Middleton
	8 Nov 2008	Benjamin Harrison
1683	Nannie Nicholas Page Carlton	
	12 Mar 2009	Benjamin Harrison
1770 LM	Dorothy Logan Harris	John Hart
	18 Mar 2009	
1782	Eleanor Logan Feaster	John Hart
	29 Mar 2009	
1958 LM	Richard Henry Lee Fitzhugh	Benjamin Harrison
	31 May 2004	
1982	Elizabeth Trent Kratz	Benjamin Harrison
	16 Dec 2007	
2178	Richard Gilpin Buckingham	Benjamin Franklin
	19 Jan 2009	
2619	Jennifer Harris Bader	John Hart
	10 Nov 2008	
2733	James Robert Heyward	Thomas Heyward, Jr.
	26 Jan 2009	

Registrar-General's Report, continued

New Senior Member Applications:

(22 plus 13 Junior Transfer plus 1 reinstated Jr)=36

John Adams	1	Philip Livingston	2
Josiah Bartatlett	2	Arthur Middleton	1
Carter Braxton	3	Robert Morris	1
Abraham Clark	2	John Morton	3
George Clymer	1	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	5
John Hart	5	Wiliam Paca	2
Thomas Heyward, Jr.	3	George Read	1
William Hooper	3	John Witherspoon	1

You will notice that we passed another member milestone this month, we passed member number 3000.

Total Life Members as of this report:

Seniors = 584, Juniors = 86, Total = 670

Last Senior Number, this Report: 3006

Last Junior Number, this Report: 1302

Total Active Membership, this Report:

Seniors = 1051, Juniors = 194

Respectfully Submitted,

James H. Alexander, Jr.

Registrar-General, DSDI 2008

Future Meetings

Annual Meeting 2009
July 3-4, 2009
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Fall Meeting 2009
October 17-19, 2009
Richmond, Virginia

Spring Meeting 2010 -
to be determined

D.S.D.I.

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