

DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Concord General Meeting—April 26, 2014

The General Meeting of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, in the Depot at 13 Depot Square in Lexington, MA. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Lawrence Croft, President-General of the Society.

Thornton Lockwood opened the meeting with a **prayer**, and Jim Alexander led the group in the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Laurie Croft welcomed all members and guests to the General Meeting of the Society, and recognized several members attending their first meeting of the Society.

Marianne Brinker described the program for the rest of the day, and gave awards to several individuals for their meritorious service in helping make the Concord meeting so successful.

Laurie Croft accepted a motion, a second and a vote to dispense with the reading of the last meeting's minutes. He pointed out that the minutes of this meeting, and the last meeting, would be available on the Members' Only section of the DSDI website. Board minutes are retained by the Secretary-General and will be available upon written request by active members.

Laurie Croft reported on the next few meetings of the Society—Charleston, SC October 10-12, and Mount Vernon, VA April 10-12, 2015.

James Alexander announced that 48 new senior members, and 19 new junior members had been approved at the previous day's Board meeting. He reported that the DSDI Directory had been finished and distributed.

In the absence of Treasurer Daniel McNamara, Laurie Croft reported that the Society's finances were in good shape, and that the non-profit status of the DSDI had been reaffirmed and re-established. He announced that a CPA would be retained when needed to provide advice when appropriate.

In the absence of Rieman McNamara, Laurie Croft summarized the Investment report for the year and observed that the Society was in sound financial condition.

In the absence of Grace Staller, Laurie Croft announced that a bench for the seven signers buried in Christ Church, Philadelphia would be dedicated at the July 4th meeting. A DSDI plaque will be placed at the home of Thomas Lynch in South Carolina. The Board agreed to broaden the charter for marking gravesites to include marking of other important sites associated with the signers.

In the absence of Historian General Johnny Alexander, Laurie Croft announced that the Centennial Book CD was nearing completion, and that an annual report has been completed for 2013.

Those in attendance were reminded that DSDI emblems and other collateral items were available as a result of the publicity provided by the Merchandising Committee.

Laurie Croft summarized briefly the activities of the Virginia Society and the laying of the Jefferson birthday wreath, the Maryland Society headed up by Lucy Tonacci observing the anniversary of the War of 1812, and the Connecticut/Rhode Island Society headed up by Shelley Cruz.

Laurie Croft complimented Jill Haines on her excellent work as the new Governor in charge of DSDI scholarships, and said that improved procedures are being implemented to improve working relationships with the Mitchell Trust.

Laurie Croft announced that the Annual Giving program had raised over \$70,000 of funds over the past five years for the Sustaining Fund. The Board had approved a \$4,500 grant to a member student preparing his Master's thesis at Oxford University in England on the 1965 Stamp Act, and that in return, said member will be a speaker at a future DSDI meeting and provide an article for publication in the Spirit and/or on our website.

Laurie Croft reported that the Board had approved a donation of \$1,000 to the National Park Service to help in the redesign and republication of their biographies of the signers' book published in the 1970s. He noted that public schools in Virginia were making use of DSDI information published on the website. Items for the next Spirit are due by May 5.

The slate of officers for 2014/1015 will be presented for a vote at the July 4th meeting.

The results of the Roll Call of signers attending the General Meeting and the Banquet, resulted in the following:

Josiah Bartlett	5 meeting, 4 banquet	John Hart	1
William Ellery	1	John Morton	2
Roger Sherman	1	George Read	1
Oliver Wolcott	7	Samuel Chase	1
Philip Livingston	1	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	4 banquet only
John Witherspoon	5	Carter Braxton	1
Francis Lewis	1	William Hooper	2
John Witherspoon	5	Thomas Heyward, Jr.	1

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thornton C. Lockwood, Guest Secretary, DSDI
June 30, 2014