

The Spirit of '76

December 1998

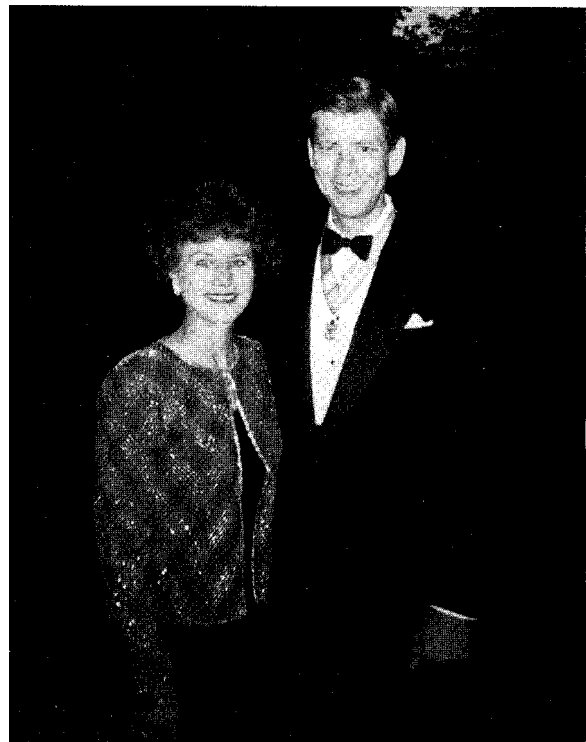
Published by the Descendants of the
Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Volume 32, Number 3

President-General's Greeting

We are a hereditary society but very much a volunteer organization as well. Our success depends on our ability to effectively utilize the talents of our membership. We have been blessed with many talented individuals over the years. I would like, however, to make particular mention of a special group of people that have assisted the D.S.D.I. in a quiet but extraordinary way. It is important to recognize the valuable contribution made by the Spouses of Descendants (SODs). The society's activities reach beyond simply our lineal descendants. The painstaking work of our scholarship chairman could not be accomplished without the loving support of a willing spouse. The same can be said of the Register Project, our Spirit editor, the Registrar-General, and my own responsibilities as your President-General just to name a few.

Our meetings are made all the more meaningful when we get a large turnout. Many times this is made possible by the support of a willing SOD. I was quite pleased to see our honorary President-General, Franklin Satterthwaite, in attendance at the Fall Meeting in Bennington. Also present was Laura Worth, the sister of New York Governor Carter Worth, who took a weekend from college to attend with her grandmother, Mrs. Carter Braxton. Mike Kennedy, husband of our beloved past President-General Dorothy attended with his daughter New Hampshire Governor Susan Peterson. Mike even chose to celebrate his



President-General Philip Schuyler Pyne and Jamie Pyne - our most significant SOD.

birthday with the group. I have often heard it said that the D.S.D.I. is like an extended family. The family could not be without the presence of the SODs.

The continued support of the SODs enables many of our members to actively participate in our organization. One begins to see the quiet contribution that gives so much to our society but is not always apparent or recognized. Therefore I am openly acknowledging, with a profound thank you, the many contributions that our SODs have given to the D.S.D.I.

Fall Meeting Minutes

The first order of business was to recognize several important people present. Franklin B. Satterthwaite, a past President-General of our organization was there with his wife Emily. Edward and Ruth Grant were also recognized as being present.

Philip F. (Mike) Kennedy, was also there with his daughter. Mike hardly needed to be introduced as he had accompanied Dorothy to many of our meetings and is known by quite a number of our members. Sandy Stromberg expressly thanked Mike for his help in evaluating the applications for our most recent scholarships.

Mrs. Carter Braxton was recognized particularly for her graciously entertaining us at our New York meeting in 1997. She has been instrumental in encouraging her grandchildren to participate in the activities of the D.S.D.I.

The membership was advised that there is a project in progress for monument markers recognizing the various individual signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Ruth Hagan has been added to the committee composed of Richard Stromberg, Richard Corson, Edward Finch, and William Ward exploring the development of a "web-site."

There is also a project to revise the application for membership in the D.S.D.I. to make it computer friendly.

Sandy Stromberg also talked about the growth of interest in the D.S.D.I. scholarship program. All of the scholarship moneys for this year have been sent out and he is already receiving new applications. Fred Pyne advised that he and other past participants are still receiving inquiries indicating that some updating of materials available to the public be made.

A motion was passed to approach the city of Philadelphia and the National Park Authority regarding collecting signatures of the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence by the D.S.D.I. These are to be donated to one of the above respective entities to be housed in a suitable memorial located in the

City of Philadelphia with credit given to our Society.

Some of our Signers' signatures are easily available at a reasonable cost while others are quite expensive and will take some research to locate. If you or any members of your family have any such signatures and would be interested in donating them to the Society, please let Sandy Stromberg know. Also, if anyone is interested in purchasing a signature, there are a number of dealers who could help you in your selection. There are three individuals who deal in signatures and manuscripts. If you would like to have their names Sandy can provide them to you.

As a final thought, a donation to a special fund to purchase signatures is also a possibility.

The report of Ann Leadbetter, Registrar-General, was read by Barbara Kalbfleisch and is detailed at the end of this report. Total membership is now 1031.

Rev. Frederick Pyne reported progress on the seven volumes of the Genealogical Register Project reported more fully below.

Reports of State Societies:

John O. McKean, head of the Virginia Society, reported on the spring meeting held in Richmond in May 1998. The group enjoyed an escorted tour of the grounds and restored home of Chief Justice John Marshall. Since the State capital building was in close proximity they visited part of that edifice also. Any Virginia members present at the Bennington meeting were invited to the planned visit of historic Chelsea Plantation in King William County, Virginia on October 18, 1998.

H. Heyward Burnett, III, has been busy organizing the Georgia Society with particular interest in any members or prospective members living in Alabama and Florida. His interest was sparked principally by knowing that the Georgia signers had no male heirs.

Truxton Brodhead reported on the progress of the Huntington House in Connecticut. The state has bought eight additional acres adjacent to the house. A dig is in progress behind the house and a new roof has been installed.

Activities in Bennington

Although Vermont was the 14th State to be added to the Union, one of the points of interest we visited was the Bennington Battle Monument. The actual battle took place in New York in 1777.

Of particular interest was a statue of Abraham Lincoln at the Bennington Museum. It has been given the title "The Spirit of America." This beautiful and inspiring group statue is the work of Clyde D. Hunt of Weathersfield, VT.

Hunt was born in Glasgow, Scotland and a great part of his adult life was spent in Paris, France, but he never became an expatriate. He was an ardent American and a loyal son of Vermont. The earliest memories of Clyde Hunt were concerned with Lincoln and the Civil War. Hunt idolized Lincoln the humanitarian, the emancipator, the man of infinite compassion, with charity for all and malice toward none. He completed the statue of Lincoln in Paris in 1928 after working on it at intervals for some years. Originally Lincoln stood alone but later the inspiration came to expand the work to include three figures, individually conceived and executed, making a trilogy since called "The American Spirit." Beside the figure of Lincoln is a kneeling feminine figure defined by the artist as perfect faith with its complete absence of fear and doubt. In addition limitless hope and confidence in the future is depicted by a nude boy as the Hope of Young America. He is shown looking into the kindly but austere face of Lincoln for counsel. When completed it was originally set up in front of the Illinois State Building at the New York World's Fair in 1939 and later presented to the Bennington Historical Museum in 1949 by his heirs.



Mrs. Carter Braxton and two granddaughters Laura Marshall Worth and Molly Andrews Worth (Mrs. Hunt Worth).



President-General Philip Pyne with past Presidents-General Franklin Satterthwaite, Barbara Kalbfleisch and Fred Pyne.



Emily Satterthwaite, Mary Pyne Kueberth (daughter of Fred & Anne Pyne), Anne Pyne



Dorothy Lewis Grant and son & daughter-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Randolph Grant



Nina Hopkins with Mr. & Mrs. John McKean and friend.

Genealogical Register Status

As of this writing, you have all received information, via the flyers of Picton Press, the publisher, on the first 4 volumes of the Genealogical Register. Volume 5, The Delaware-Maryland Signers is nearing completion and should be in the publishers' hands in the spring.

Please forward your genealogical information on the Virginia Signers to be included in Volume 6. Information is needed for: Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., and Carter Braxton. What is most useful is information that you have back to grandparents and great grandparents with events to include date and place of birth, marriage, and death. Frequently families will know about the date of some event, but neglect to include the place. Genealogically, place often turns out to be more important than date, because then one can go to the Vital Records of that location and find the date if a general time period is also known.

It is none too early to also forward information for Volume 7 to include the following Signers: William Hooper, John Penn, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward Jr., and Arthur Middleton.

Especially useful would be either copies of or at least references to any compiled genealogy that you may have or know of regarding any of the lines descending from any of the Signers noted above.

My address is:

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Frederick, MD 21701

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E-Mail: 104574.3277@compuserve.com

Picton Press

There are many publishers of genealogical books, but among them only three would be deemed quality producers. Of these, only Picton Press is owned and operated by persons who are genealogists in addition to being book publishers. The Press is 31 years

old and publishes about 800 titles a year. Over the years their historical and genealogical section has published about 3000 titles.

Picton Press is small, but they dominate the field of historical society publishing. Aspects of their work that are impressive are: beautifully crafted volumes, carefully annotated genealogical sketches, and a complete and full index.

Lewis Bunker Rohrbach is the CEO of Picton Press, and a Certified Genealogist (CG) Picton Press was started by his grandfather and carried on by the family. Certified Genealogist is a designation widely recognized and respected in the genealogical community. When he was certified in 1970 he was the youngest ever certified. His registration number is 111. One must have extensive genealogical experience, pass an extremely severe testing process and present extensive materials and examples to a Board of Certification to become Board certified as a CG; quite similar to a process physicians undergo to becoming Board Certified in a medical specialty. Needless to say this has been a life-long passion amplified by a family of historians and librarians.

Some of the staff are also Certified Genealogists, including Marlene A. Groves who prepares the index for each of our volumes.

The author of the Register, The Rev. Frederick Pyne, first learned about Picton Press a number of years ago through their advertisements in the genealogical literature. When he actually saw one of their volumes he was pleased with its content, organization and appearance.

The feature that makes the D.S.D.I. project so important is that we concentrate on data, not interpretation. When the editor of *The Spirit* had an opportunity to interview Mr. Rohrbach on the phone, he suggested an interesting twist to those who hesitate to purchase these volumes. Have you considered interesting your local library in going 50/50 on the cost? This way you could use the volume for your personal research and when you are finished it could go to your library for others to use.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT
Fall, 1998

New Senior Members

2534 John Hart

Claudia Jane Singleton Covey
Mrs. Gary Alvin Covey
1025 Old Woman Run
Sutton, WV 26601

2535 John Hart

Clinton Joseph Covey
1025 Old Woman Run
Sutton, WV 26601

2536 George Ross

Elsa Statzell Diamond
Mrs. Robert Bernard Diamond
113 Barcroft Drive
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-3126

2537 Edward Rutledge

Henry Middleton Rutledge VI
3 Formosa Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

New Junior Members

1072 William Ellery

Anna Sargent MacFarlane
1414 La Vereda Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

1073 William Ellery

William Ellery Scott MacFarlane
1414 La Vereda Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Name Changes & Corrections

2500 from Mrs. Earl Biscoe, Jr.
to Mrs. Lilly Biscoe
18 Clark Drive
West Hartford, CT 06117

1867 from Mrs. Robert May Dorer
to Mrs. Sarah Harper Dorer
2 Otis Street
Bedford, MA 01730

1966

from Miss Anne Hale
to Mrs. Anne Hale Long
c/o Thomas Hale
27 Hatch Road, Box 1177
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

1722

from Mrs. Jaquelin L. Turbidy
to Mrs. John B. Turdiby
P. O. Box 338
Little Silver, NJ 07739-0338

1067

from Sarah Christina Livingston
to Rush, NH
Rush, NY 14543

Changes to Life Member

2036 LM

Ms. Dorothy Gray Berndt
5111 Naches Heights Road
Yakima, WA 98908-8828

2488 LM

Benjamin Harrison Walker, Jr.
297 Black Point Lane
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Resignations

2425

Ms. Laurie Deborah Sprietsma
268 Santa Rosa Drive
Winter Haven, FL 33884

2433

Charles Scott Sprietsma
268 Santa Rosa Drive
Winter Haven, FL 33884

Deaths

1863

Anne Page Brydon
died July 14, 1998

1878

John Barclay Lex
died June 5, 1998

1436

Margaret Duane Lunt
(Mrs. Dudley C.)
died July 23, 1998

2501

James Lynnah Palmer
died July 28, 1998

1565

Philip Livingston Strong
died August 17, 1998

1616

Susan Powers Urstadt
(Mrs. James J.)
died January 5, 1997

*May the souls of these members,
and all others who have departed
this life, rest in thy heavenly
Kingdom, now and forever.*

Dropped for Delinquency

2385 Jeffrey Michael Allen

2063 William Francis Britton

2190 Laura Patricia Devlin

1538 David Francis Driscoll

2379 Thomas Edward Eppes

2087 Sarah Colette S. Frederick

2226 Thomas Gaillard Heyward, Jr.

2031 Marjorie Simmons Johnson (Mrs. John)

2392 Richard Wallace Langford

577 Augusta Harrison Nightingale (Mrs. John)

2033 Mrs. Laura Johnson Ramos

2194 Jennifer Anne Roche

1806 Roger M. L. Schmitt, Esq.

2351 Richard Albert Tilghman, III

2353 Rebekah Ann Washington

2317 Allison Field Yandell

2142 Thomas Christopher Yandell

P. S. P. I. .

Lucie C. Minsk
24 Rayton Road
Hanover, NH 03755-2214



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