

The Spirit of '76

April 1999

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Signers of the Declaration of Independence

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President-General's Greetings

Living Up To Expectations

The success of any organization is really one of definition. To meet its expectations, an organization must stay focused on clearly defined objectives. The DSDI was founded in 1907 during the World's Fair in Philadelphia when a small group of people realized that what they had in common with each other was the fact that they descended from a Signer.

The society was established with the express purpose, as defined in the Constitution, "to strengthen in American life the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, and to perpetuate the memory" of those men who signed the most endearing document in American history. The expectation in 1907 was that we, the descendants, could best fulfill this perpetuation of the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the lives of those who risked their's to assure the survival of a free and democratic country. Over the past ninety-two years, the DSDI has successfully completed many patriotic and commemorative projects. None of these projects could have been achieved without the collective efforts of the Society's membership. It has always been the expectation that we can and should do whatever is necessary to fulfill the basic mission.



The DSDI, by definition, is genuinely, one of the most unique hereditary societies in existence. The coveted Society of the Cincinnati, considered by some to be the most prestigious of all hereditary societies, is composed of lineal descendants of one of the original 1000 officers of the Continental Army. Consider the impact - a descendant of one of 1000. We on the other hand compose a society of descendants of one of 56 men who "mutually pledged their Lives, their Fortunes, and their Sacred Honor in the cause of Liberty;" four of whom never sired offspring. Being unique can have its drawbacks as well. We still remain a small group and always will when considering that only 52 progenies enable our very existence. For this reason alone it is incumbent that we encourage more participation among our members to keep the DSDI purpose strong and live up to expectations. Otherwise our ability to effectively exist is greatly diminished. In helping to plan our recent Spring Meeting in Wilmington, I was astonished at the tremendous welcome we received from the local media, and City and University officials, including UNC Chancellor James R. Leutze whose great-great-grandfather, Emanule Leutze, painted the famous portrait of Washington Crossing the Delaware. All of this fuss reminded me just how important it is for us, as a society, to

live up to expectations. It really had nothing to do with us as individuals, but collectively as a group which represents the progeny of those who signed the Declaration of Independence. There was particular interest among the local media to know if any members attending were descended from a North Carolina signer. How embarrassing it would have been to be visiting this most excited city in the hosting state and not be represented. As your President-General, I was relieved when David Walker McCullough, a descendant of John Penn, stepped forward to represent his ancestor.

A major reason that we meet in the original thirteen colonies is to assure that we, at the very least, perpetuate the memory of signers from those hosting localities. Thirty-two members attended the meeting in Wilmington. I realize it is sometimes difficult and/or expensive to attend many of our meetings. Although I do not expect all members to attend every meeting, I strongly believe that we can draw more regional support than we have recently experienced. I have requested that a geographical printout of our membership be provided to the respective Governors of our represented thirteen colonies. Each Governor will be aware of current members who may be willing to offer support in some way. Several Governors have created very active and successful state societies who in turn have been instrumental in promulgating the mission of the national organization.

The newsletter is distributed to more than one thousand members of the society. I am asking you to make contact with the representative Governor of your state and offer your support if by no other means than attending a meeting within your regional area. I also invite you to contact me with any desire to participate in the DSDI in any way. I am interested in attracting people who are willing to share ideas and participate in a leadership role to make those ideas become a reality. We are a volunteer organization and

do not expect to overburden any one individually. We can accomplish a great deal collectively but only with your cooperation. We have done so in the past and I am convinced that we will continue to do so in the future. My optimism is rooted in the belief that more members will step forward to help the DSDI collectively pursue and achieve our mission.

As we approach the new millennium, I consider this outreach to our members a "wake-up call" to live up to the expectations of the founders of our great society.

Spring Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held Saturday morning, March 6, in historic St. Thomas Hall.

Due to a need to meet a travel schedule, Dr. James Leutze, Chancellor of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington was introduced. Dr. Leutze presented an interesting depiction of Revolutionary War battles fought in North Carolina. Although a short battle, Moore's Creek proved to be one of the most decisive battles, in that General Cornwallis had depended on help from the Scots of the uplands for help, but the local militia neutralized that force. Dr. Leutz spoke about other skirmishes including the battle of Guilford Courthouse where Tarleton met General Nathan Green who wore the Crown's troops down by leading them around in their strict troop formations up and down rough terrain.

The Society has received complementary copies from Pickton Press of the volumes of The Genealogical Register published to date. The set will be assigned to the custody of the present and any future Registrar-General of the Society and will be useful to confirm the eligibility of new member applications.

President Pyne asked those who already have purchased volumes to look for and report any errors. An addendum will be added to each volume where errors are detected.

The web site project has been put on hold until more information can be gathered. The application form for membership in the Society is being modified to make it computer friendly should a web site be established.

The Scholarship Fund awards partial scholarships to college students who are members of DSDI. In 1998 we awarded financial assistance of \$1100 to 10 members selected from those who applied.

All members of our Society are encouraged to support this project by making gifts to the Fund's principal, which is tax-deductible by the IRS. Gifts may be made in honor of your Signer, in memory of a deceased member of DSDI, or by bequest in a will. These tax-sheltered gifts should be sent to our Treasurer-General, Mr. William Ward, IV, P.O. Box 305, Toughkenamon, PA 19374. We ask your consideration in helping our college age members in this manner.

The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the coming year.

President-General:

Philip Schuyler Pyne

First Vice-President:

Edward Ridley Finch, Jr.

Second Vice-President:

F. Nelson Light

Chaplain-General:

Mrs. William Kalbfleisch

Registrar-General:

Mrs. Frederick Leadbetter

Assistant Registrar-General:

Mrs. J. Bruce Hagen

Historian-General

Richard H. Stromberg

Assistant Historian-General:

open for nomination

Treasurer-General:

William Ward, IV

Assistant Treasurer-General:

Henry Heyward Burnet III

Secretary-General:

John Dandridge Nelson

Assistant Secretary-General:

Mrs. Hans Bielenstein

Chancellor-General:

T. Michael Kennedy

State Society Report

John McKean, President of the Virginia Society reported that in October 1998 the group toured Chelsea Plantation near West Point, VA. The next meeting will be May 16, 1999. It will be held at "Mount Airy" located on the Rappahannock River in Richmond County. Francis Lightfoot Lee, one of the Virginia "Signers," is buried in the family cemetery there.

They have developed a membership booklet of DSDI members living in Virginia. They are invited to join the Virginia Society, and ten have become life members. The annual dues statement includes an invitation to include a contribution to the memory of the member's signer which is turned over to the National DSDI Scholarship Fund.

Activities in Wilmington

After the meeting in the morning the group toured the Cornwallis House (Burgwin-Wright House). Breaking for lunch at "Elijah's" on the waterfront of the Cape Fear River, we then had an interesting tour of the Cape Fear Museum which was established in 1898 as a Confederate Museum.

In the evening we assembled for dinner at the Pilot House Restaurant. Our local knowledge of the Revolution which began at the morning meeting when Dr. James Leutz presented the strategy, tactics, offense and defense of Washington's army was continued in the evening when Gilbert "Skip" Riddle, a member of the Company of Military Historians, Brigade of the American Revolution and Fellow of the David Library of the American Revolution spoke to us in costume on the American Revolution from the British perspective. This was quite interesting in that Wilmington was Tory friendly during the Revolution.



Dr. James R. Leutze, Chancellor of University of North Carolina-Wilmington



Rita Wade, descendant of Arthur Middleton and husband Vincent at the Pilot House dinner.



President-General Philip Pyne with Gilbert "Skip" Riddle at the Pilot House Restaurant.



John McKean, Fred and Ann Leadbetter with Docent at the Burgwin-Wright House.



Ruth McKean, wife of John McKean, with daughter Janet Smith, new Governor for North Carolina.

Genealogical Register Status

Work on the Genealogical Register continues apace. The first four volumes of this seven volume work are now fully complete and available. Volume 5: The Delaware and Maryland Signers, should be published very soon.

Volume 6: The Virginia Signers is now being actively worked on and is about 50% complete. **There is a need for proofreaders (one for each signer) for Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, and Carter Braxton.**

Volume 7: The Carolinas and Georgia Signers is outlined and about 15% complete. **There is need for a person (one for each signer) to volunteer to proofread the chapters for Arthur Middleton and Edward Rutledge.**

The members are alerted to the fact that Rev. Pyne, the author, is not the Registrar, nor has he ever held that office. He has no access to the majority of the genealogical information on the applications and many are very weak or incomplete on genealogical data. So please send data on yourself, your children, and grandchildren. 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.

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7997 Windsail Court
Frederick, MD 21701
Phone: 301/695-3935
E-Mail: revredpyne@compuserve.com

What a disappointment to members who look in the book only to discover that they are not there! It cannot be assumed that he has all the information needed to connect them to persons already in the book and then bring it down as far as possible.

The more complete this Register is, the more useful it becomes to those in the future - and that's what we are all about.

Patriot's Ball

Representing our society at the prestigious Patriot's Ball hosted by the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (MSSAR) held at the Turf Valley Country Club near Elliott City, Maryland on Friday, December 4, 1998 was our Registrar-General Ann Leadbetter. Her husband Frederick, is Historian for the MSSAR.

Also present were Elizabeth Kratz and Frederick Pyne. Elizabeth Kratz has been a long time member of our Society and a former member of the Board of Governors. Her husband, the Rev. Charles I. Kratz, is a past Chaplain-General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Patriot's Ball is a formal annual event of the MSSAR including the presentation of

debutantes. The salute and presentation of flags by the color guard in uniform is also included and well received.

Paul Revere's Ride

by David Hackett Fischer

Reviewed by Richard "Sandy" Stromberg

Based upon the title of the book, the reader could reasonably expect that the book would deal with the "midnight ride of Paul Revere." However, this fortunately is not another rewrite of this famous race from Boston to Concord. The author begins with an attempt to show parallels between the lives of Paul Revere and General Gage, the British North American commander. This doesn't work because Gage's time in North America doesn't coincide with Revere's maximum influence during the colonial era.

The author's description of "the ride" adds nothing new to the body of literature already in circulation about this subject nor in its interpretation of events. Where the author illuminates and helps to define events is in the battles of Concord, Lexington, and the retreat of the British to Charleston, Massachusetts. He argues that the British were overwhelmed, outmaneuvered, and out fought. Contrary to popular belief, the rebels were quite adept at the European, as well as the Indian form of warfare. In fact, rather than the dreamy eyed rebels commonly portrayed, many of them were hard bitten veterans of the French and Indian Wars. The British were indeed outfought.

In his appendix he offers how "the ride" has evolved over the decades. Each generation reinvented the ride to fit its own societal perceptions of history. There are better accounts of Paul Revere's ride. However, I recommend this book, based on its account of the battles and history's differing perceptions of Paul Revere's attempt to alert the countryside.

Future Meetings

July 2-4, 1999	Philadelphia, PA
October 1-3, 1999	Morristown, NJ
March 3-5, 2000	Annapolis, MD

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Spring, 1999

New Senior Members

2538 John Brandon Peters
9307 Lyndonway Drive
Richmond, VA 23229

2539 Samuel DeHon Clarkon, Jr.
Hwy. 52, P.O. Box 156
Greeleyville, SC 29056

2540 Jane Bowes Holmes Peabody
(Mrs. Jackson David Peabody)
5805 Clubhouse Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32967

2541 (Jr. 910) Ashley Witherspoon Franklin Light
173 Ladderback Lane
Devon, PA 19333-1838

2542 Elizabeth Ribinnette Turner Wrobel
(Mrs. Jeffrey Scot Wrobel, Sr.)
1150 Decca Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

2543 LM (Jr. 865) Erin Barbara Peterson
43 Brick Mill Road
Bedford, NH 03220-4618

2544 John Caldwell Weilwood Caron
401 Hunter Lane
Charlotte, NC 28211

2545 (Jr. 903) Alan Nelson Sisk
108 Briarwood Drive
Manchester, TN 37355

2546 (Jr. 1017) Stephanie Susan Woods
10405 N. 22nd Place
Phoenix, AZ 85028

2547 (Jr. 952) Mary Blake Ramsey
1090 Forrest Hills Drive
Bogart, GA 30622-2439

Carter Braxton

William Floyd

John Hart

John Witherspoon

John Penn

Samuel Adams

Matthew Thornton

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

John Witherspoon

Arthur Middleton

2548 (Jr. 1063) Sarah Ann Kinsey
2184 Buffalo Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81503

2549 (Jr. 849) Anna Rosalie Cowan
1501 Belmont Drive
Orlando, FL 32806-2404

2550 (Jr. 1065) Benjamin Hampton Morgan
P.O. Box 436
Onancock, VA 23417

2551 (Jr. 1048) Travis Prentiss Vessel
138 Brandwine
Summerville, SC 29485

2552 (Jr. 1016) Frank Parker Woods, Jr.
10405 N. 22nd Place
Phoenix, AZ 85028

2553 (Jr. 940) Mary Kinney Lowe
311 Gabriel Lane
Gadsden, AL 35901

2554 (Jr. 870) Robert Oehler Newman
509 Woodridge Road
Edgefield, SC 29824

2555 Jessica Louise Cruze
7412 Amberwood Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

2556 (Jr. 830) Robert George Dunn, IV
3038 Wadsworth Avenue
Albany, GA 31707

2557 Laura Wayles Wilson
24050 Macs Lane
Worton, MD 21678

Roger Sherman

John Witherspoon

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Arthur Middleton

John Witherspoon

Edward Rutledge & Arthur Middleton

Francis Hopkinson

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Robert Morris

Thomas Jefferson

New Junior Members

1074 LM Meredith Nita Osterman
1444 Old Gulph Road
Villanova, Pa 19085

1075 LM Alexis Topol Osterman
1444 Old Gulph Road
Villanova, PA 19085

1076 LM Zoe Elizabeth Osterman
1444 Old Gulph Road
Villanova, PA 19085

1077 LM Henry Heyward Burnet, V
2135 Natures Gate South
Fernandion Beach, FL 32034

1078 Laura Jesselyn Murray
HC 72, Box 446A
Locust Grove, VA 22508

1079 Erin Holmes Peabody
5805 Clubhouse Drive
Vero Beach, FL 32967

1080 William Turner Wrobel
1150 Decca Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

1081 Jeffrey Scott Wrobel, Jr.
1150 Decca Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

1082 Shawn Elizabeth Corson
14301 Hwy 49
Gold Hill, NC 28071-8674

1083 Caitlin Ann Pugh
3736 Upland Drive
Marietta, GA 30066

1084 LM Colin Michael Bowes Morris
3645 Edenborough Place
Marietta, GA 30066

Benjamin Harrison

Benjamin Harrison

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

John Morton

John Hart

John Penn

John Penn

John Hart

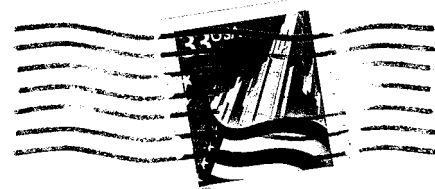
John Hart

John Hart

1085 LM	Cameron Arthur Pugh 3736 Upland Drive Marietta, GA 30066	John Hart	
1086 LM	Alexandra Bowes Pugh 3736 Upland Drive Marietta, GA 30066	John Hart	
1087	Dana Ashley Ward 1520 Sunnyside Drive Branden, FL 33510	John Morton	
1088 LM	Virginia Elizabeth Nelson Williams 22504 E. 175th Street Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	
1089 LM	George Bryan Williams, III 22504 E. 175th Street Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	Thomas Nelson, Jr.	
1090	Brittany Nichole Wicks 401 Berkeley Drive Williamsburg, VA 23185	John Morton	
1091	Joshua Conrad Wicks 401 Berkeley Drive Williamsburg, VA 23185	John Morton	
<u>Name Changes & Corrections</u>			
1980 LM	from Miss Mary Clinton Pyne to Mrs. Mary Pyne Kueberth 3807 Baker Valley Road Frederick, MD 21704		
<u>Changes to Life Member</u>			
1752 LM	Karen Bowes Pugh (Mrs. G. Wesley, Jr.) 3736 Upland Drive Marietta, GA 30066		
<u>Reinstate as Life Member</u>			
1751 LM	Ms. Linda Jane Bowes 3645 Edenborough Place Marietta, GA 30066		
<u>Deaths</u>			
1364	Joan Goldrick Johnson (Mrs. Merle Everette Johnson) died February 20, 1998		
1330 LM	Agnes Callison Carstarphen (Mrs. William H. Carstarphen, Jr.) died July 6, 1999		
<i>May the souls of these members, and all others who have departed this life, rest in thy heavenly Kingdom, now and forever.</i>			
<u>Dues Delinquency / 1 year</u>			
2487	Isabel Angelina Barrow		
2471	Middleton Pope Barrow Jr.		
2402	Leslie Nicole Baumgartner		
2240	Ann Watkinson Bell		
1326	John Henry Bennett		
1986	Mrs. Ellen B. Buckingham		
2178	Richard Gilpin Buckingham Jr.		
2206	Mrs. David F. Cook		
2443	Wilkes Peyton Covey		
2455	Kevin John Cunningham		
1840	Thomas Pelham Curtis		
2292	Elizabeth Forrestal Davis		
2462	Gabriel Michael Dicianni		
2305	Braeton Lee Dillon		
2499	John McLaughlin Forney Jr.		
1404	Robert D. Fortson		
2277	Julie Ann George		
2473	Mrs. Richard Gray		
2475	James Delbert Greenwood III		
1968	Ric Haberset Groff		
2442	Mrs. Zachary L. Hale		
2395	Nicholle Prentiss Haneman		
2422	Todd Lee Harkins		
2186	Allan Mcalpin Heyward Jr.		
1327	Colson H. Hillier Jr.		
2400	Jonathan Richard Kennedy		
2456	Mrs. Brent Lehmann		
2098	Arthur Heath Light		
2429	Maureen Carrol Looker		
0775	Mrs. William Harry Miller		
2484	Ralston Everett Mingledorff Jr.		
1734	Robert Manganaro Morris		
2457	Katherine Amory Owens		
2491	Michael Thomas Plante		
1905	Mrs. Edgar Francis Puryear		
2049	Mrs. Michael A. Raley		
2419	Thomas Arthur Schultz III		
2389	William Preston Schultz		
0698	Cecelia Hearey Simmons		
0830	Margaret E. Simmons		
0696	Samuel Adams Simmons		
2298	Cyrena Torrey Simons		
2965	Glenn Forrest Stonecker		
2469	Tara Lynn Shesrud		
2114	Robert Wilson Squires Jr.		
2502	Elizabeth Anne Stockton		
2288	Benjamin Thomas Stockton		
2468	James Markham Triplett		
2427	Laurie Christie Walton		
2440	Bradford Pitman Ward		
2438	William Warren Ward		
2505	Melissa Kneass Wheelock		
2486	Victoria Ann Wiley		
<u>Dues Delinquency / 2 years</u>			
2411	Julie Marie Abert		
1687	Charles Avando Leavens Allen		
2416	Tricia Lynn Alley		
2372	Sarah Adams Baylis		
1394	Truxtun E. Brodhead		
1474	Mrs. John Warren Brubaker		
2432	Mrs. Paul J. Cunningham		
2245	Kristina Nelson Davis		
2260	Katherine Marie Devlin		
2145	David Hayden Gorman		
2071	William Poindexter Moore Jr.		
2255	Mrs. James H. Owens		
2421	Jerald James Rewok		
2424	Colleen Elizabeth Roche		
2149	Bruce Keatley Rutherford		
2256	Mrs. Charles Lemuel Smith		
2387	Lori Michelle Shesrud		
2428	Alice Teresa Taylor		
2393	Frank Parker Woods		

D. S. D. I. .

Lucie C. Minsk
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