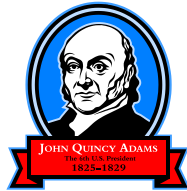


A news account of the Founding of THE FOUNDERS and PATRIOTS of AMERICA from the *New York Tribune*; Part II, Tuesday, February 25, 1896

A NEW SOCIETY FORMED
ITS BASIS IS REMOTE COLONIAL ANCESTERY
AND ITS OBJECT THE PROMOTION OF PATRIOTISM



“A new society, whose object is to promote patriotism and whose members are to be descendants of persons who settled in the colonies between the dates 1607 and 1657, and whose ancestors in the following century were loyal to the cause of freedom in the War of the Revolution, is in the process of organization. A meeting of those interested in its development was held yesterday at the Astor House. Those present were John Quincy Adams, W.L. Lincoln Adams, H.S. Robbins, Ralph E. Prime, E.N.G. Green, C.B. Wilkinson, H.L. Morris and Howard Marshall. The object of the meeting was to discuss plans leading towards definite organization. The question of membership, dues, life membership dues, constitutions, by-laws, and name were all taken up and referred to the committees appointed. The full list of organizers includes the following: John Quincy Adams, Clarence L. Collins, George W. Livermore, H.S. Robbins, Matthew Himman, Ralph E. Prime, W.I. Lincoln Adams, E.N.G. Green, C.B. Wilkinson, H.L. Morris, Howard Marshall, and Henry Hall. All these men are members of the Society of Colonial Wars, Sons of the American Revolution and other similar organizations.

The rule governing admission to membership as adopted at the meeting yesterday reads: ‘Any male person above the age of twenty one, of good moral character and reputation, who is a citizen of the United States of America, shall be eligible for membership in this society who is a lineal descendant in the male or applicant’s mother’s male (sic ‘line’) from an ancestor who settled in any of the nine colonies in America now included in the United States from the settlement of Jamestown, May 13, 1607 to May 13, 1657 inclusive and whose ancestors on the call of the colonies on April 19, 1775, took sides with them through the Revolution that followed.’

Temporary organization was effected by the election of the following officers pro-tem: John Quincy Adams, Chairman; E.N.G. Green, Secretary and H.S. Robbins, Treasurer; Committee on Constitution and By-laws, Ralph E. Prime, H.L. Morris, Howard Marshall and J.Q. Adams; Committee on Insignia, Seal and Stationary, E.N.G. Green, C.B. Wilkinson and W.I. Lincoln Adams; Committee on Eligibility and Membership, H.S. Robbins, Ralph E. Prime and E.N.G. Green,

The name originally selected for the new organization was Society of American Colonies. This name has been given up because there is another society by the same name in existence. The next meeting will be held at the Hotel Endicott, March 9 (...1896...) at which a name will be chosen. The Sons of Jamestown has been considered as a fitting name.

John Quincy Adams said that the test of membership was such that it would unquestionably be the most exclusive society of its kind in existence. In point of time it (...blurred word ...) years ahead of any others. He said further that insomuch as the rule governing eligibility was so strict that a large membership was not expected, and if the society numbered fifty members in the course of the next two years it would be doing well, in the opinion of the originators. There would be no limit put on membership. The fact that most of its originators were members of similar societies would go to show that the motive of those interested was none other than of obtaining a more restricted membership.

In view of the significance of the day May 13 has been decided upon as the date of the organization of the society, and the occasion will be celebrated in a fitting manner.”

The Order has a web site: www.founderpatriots.org.

THE ORDER OF THE FOUNDERS AND PATRIOTS OF AMERICA -- 1896

THE COAT OF ARMS

The following article appeared on page 121, volume VIII, number 59 of the Coat of Arms, the quarterly publication of the Heraldry Society of England.

The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America is a unique Order, and the only one of its type in the United States, Originally founded at Astor House in New York City on February 24th, 1895, it has societies in fourteen states, and a total membership of around 300. Its objectives are briefly, to promote patriotism; protect and preserve documents and articles associated with United States History; and to collect and preserve records relating to the first colonists of the United States, their ancestors and descendants.

The membership requirements are very rigid, being based strictly upon hereditary succession in the male line from the early settlers in America. The well-known American author, Cleveland Amory, in his humorous work WHO KILLED SOCIETY says of the Order, "Probably the most difficult of all patriotic societies to enter in the Order of Founders and Patriots --- not because of any so-called Society 'exclusiveness' but because of what, genealogically, is demanded." To qualify for membership, the applicant must be a man over eighteen years, of good moral character and reputation, who is lineally descended in the male line of either parent from an ancestor who settled in any of the Colonies now included in the United States of American prior to May 13, 1657, and one of all of whose intermediate ancestors, in the male line, who lived in the period of the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783, fought for the United States against Great Britain. To establish his eligibility, each applicant must satisfactorily prove his descent by proper documentary evidence, to the satisfaction of Genealogist of the State Society which he is desirous of entering, and also to the satisfaction of the Genealogist General of the Order. He must also be proposed and seconded by members of the Order in good standing, and approved by the membership committees.

The national headquarters of the Order is located at the Federal Hall Memorial, 15 Pine Street, New York. The Order publishes extensive bound genealogical records covering all of its associates (as members are called) since its founding. In addition, it published a semi-annual bulletin. The General Court of the Order is the supreme authority of the Order, and meets once each year, normally in New York City. State societies hold meetings as directed by the respective governors.

Among the more well-known members have been such American greats as Presidents of the United States, Warren G. Harding and William Howard Taft, Admiral George Dewey, Vice-President of the United States Charles G. Dawes, and Major General Ulysses S. Grant, III, to name a few.

The insignia of the Order consists of a badge of gold, as follows, Obverse - Upon a radiated star, or, a cross enamelled gules; thereon the effigy of an officer, in Continental uniform (i.e. the uniform of the Continental Army of the American Revolution) surmounted by that of Captain Miles Standish, Habited in morion and breastplate; both effigies within a chaplet of oak and laurel leaves, all or. Reverse - upon a radiated star, or, a star of thirteen points, enamelled azure, in its center, the arms of the United States in relief, within a white circle, inscribed "Steadfast for God and Country, all or.

The Seal of the Order may be blazoned, upon a shield or, a Continental soldier at attention, habited proper, surrounded by a constellation of thirteen stars, azure; upon the centre of the chief, a ship of the seventeenth century, under full sail, proper; above the shield, the dates 1607-1657, beneath the shield, the date of 1776; the whole surrounded by an amulet gules, inscribed "The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America," in exerge, 1896; the edge beaded, the field, or. (Or, is gold - Gules, red, Azure, blue.)

References:

Order of the Founders and Patriots of America Bulletin, pages 6 and 7 - Vol. XXXVIII - No. I - Feb. 1965 - Whole no. 103.

The Coat of Arms (The Heraldry Society of England.) page 121 - Vol. VIII - Number 59.

Transcribed in Detroit on 25 October 1966

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