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The Order of the Descendants

of the

Signers of the

Secret Pact

or

Prior Declaration of Independence

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Signers of the Secret Pact
or
Prior Declaration of Independence



Preamble

Whereas, The history of a country should by diligent study and patriotism be promoted, and the truth be proclaimed and revealed to our citizens throughout our land, that they may be informed as to actual facts; and whereas there seems to be but little information in regard to a document signed by various patriots of the Revolutionary period and yet prior to the Declaration of Independence, wherein certain well known persons who were delegates from the several Colonies pledged themselves not to divulge anything debated in the Congress of November 9, 1775; and whereas many who signed this document did afterward sign the Declaration of Independence; and whereas some who signed the Declaration of 1776 of the Independence of the American Colonies did afterward sign the Secret Pact of November 9th, 1775, thus showing the Pact to be a Secret Declaration of Independence, or a forerunner of the same and a most important document which reads and is signed as follows:

In Congress Nov 9, 1775

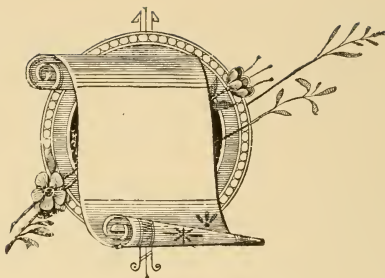
Resolved That every member of this Congress considers himself under the ties of virtue, honor & love of his Country not to divulge directly or indirectly any matter or thing agitated or debated in Congress before the same shall have been determined, without leave of the Congress; nor any matter or thing determined in Congress which a majority of the Congress shall order to be kept secret, and that if any member shall violate this agreement he shall be expelled this Congress & deemed an enemy to the liberties of America & liable to be treated as such & that every member signify his consent to this agreement by signing the same.

Ja ^s Duane	Samuel Chase	Jona D Sergeant
Lewis Morris	Richard Henry Lee	Geo. Clinton
Fran ^s Lewis	Th: Jefferson	W ^m Whipple
W ^m Floyd	Benj Harrison	Mat Tilghman
Rob ^t R Livingston jun ^r	Tho ^s Nelson Jr	Carter Braxton
Henry Wisner	G Wythe	Tho ^s Heyward Jun ^r
Step ⁿ Crane	Francis Lightfoot Lee	Lyman Hall May 20
Wil: Livingston	John Penn	Button Gwinnett " 20
Tho ^s Willing	Will Hooper	William Ellery
And ^w Allen	Joseph Hewes Nov 10 th	Ja ^s Witherspoon
C Humphreys	Th Lynch	Abra: Clark
James Wilson	Christ. Gadsden	Geo Walton
Rob ^t Morris	Edward Rutledge	John Hart
B. Franklin	Arch ^d Bulloch	B Rush 22 July 1776
W ^m Dickinson	John Houstoun	W ^m Willhams
E Biddle	Thomas Lynch Jun ^r	30 July 1776
John Hancock	Arthur Middleton	Geo. Clymer
Josiah Bartlett	Fras ^s Hopkinson	Chas Carroll
John Langdon	28 June	Jonath ⁿ Elmer
Thomas Cushing	Tho McKean	Mann Page Jun ^r
Sam ^{el} Adams	Geo: Read	Nathan Brownson
John Adams	Cæsar Rodney	Feb 3 ^d 1777
Rob ^t Treat Paine	John Jay	Matthew Thornton
Step. Hopkins	Rich ^d Smith	James Lovell
Sam. Ward	Philad ^a 18 Jan ^y 1776	Thomas Burke
Élipt Dyer	Sam ^{el} Huntington	W: Smith
Roger Sherman	Rob ^t Alexander	W ^m Duer June 5 th 1777
Silas Deane	Oliver Wolcott	Nich ^s Van Dyke
Th Johnson Jun ^r	Rogers	H ^y Marchant
W ^m Paca	Elbridge Gerry	Geo: Frost
	T. Stone	

Now as has been shown this "Secret Pact" is of vital historical importance and the signers of said document should be honored as among the founders of the new Republic, therefore we, the descendants, in order to do justice to history, to our ancestors and ourselves, do now institute and form an Order to be known as "The Order of the Descendants of the Signers of the Secret Pact or Prior Declaration of Independence," and hereby append our names thereto.

J. G. B. Bulloch, M. D.
Thos. Featherstonhaugh
W. E. Dunwody
Gordon Monges Ash
Mrs. John Truitt Farrel
(Delphine Harland Ash)

Miss Ellen Margareta Farrel
Miss Wilmuth Gary
W. Gaston Bulloch
Miss Emma H. Bulloch
Mrs. Paul Anderson



Constitution

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This Order shall be known in law as the Order of the Descendants of the Signers of the Secret Pact or Prior Declaration of Independence.

ARTICLE II.

Objects.

To unite the descendants of the signers of "The Secret Pact" in the bonds of friendship and to do justice to the signers of that historical document and to their descendants.

ARTICLE III.

Qualifications.

All descendants in male or female line (as also all of collateral descent) of those who signed the document, "The Secret Pact of November 9, 1775," as also the clerk* of the Secretary who agreed to secrecy in the Congress.

*NOTE.—In the minutes of the Continental Congress under the date of May 15, 1775, is the following entry: "Agreed that the Secy. be allowed to employ Timothy Matlack as a Clerk, he having first taken an oath or affirmation to keep secret the transactions (or secrets) of the Congress that may be entrusted to him or may come to his knowledge."

In Congress Nov. 9. 1775. —

Resolved That every member of this Congress considers himself under the ties of virtue, honor & love of his Country not to divulge directly or indirectly any matter or thing agitated or debated in Congress before the same shall have been determined, without leave of the Congress; nor any matter or thing determined in Congress which a majority of the Congress shall order to be kept secret, and that if any member shall violate this agreement he shall be expelled this Congress & deemed an enemy to the liberties of America & liable to be treated as such & that every member signifies his consent to this agreement by signing the same.

Jas Duane
 Lewis Morris
 Fran Lewis
 Ben Howard
 Robt Livingston jun
 Henry Wistar
 Nejn Crane
 Wm Livingston
 Nic Colling
 And Allen
 Gumpheys
 James Wilson
 Wm Meredith

John Hancock
 Josiah Bartlett
 John Langdon
 Thomas Cushing
 Jarr Adams
 John Adams
 Robt Treat Parson
 Step Hopkin
 Jam. Ward
 Elizht Dyer
 Roger Sherman
 Nath Deane

B Franklin
 Wm Bausman
 J. M. W.

The Hon
 Wm
 Colman
 Richd
 The Hon
 Wm
 The
 C. H.
 Fran
 John
 Will
 Joseph
 Tho
 Chas
 Edw
 Arch
 Wm
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 Chas

Henry Lee
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Bullock
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each June
Hadleton
akenson 28 June

Ho M. Keas
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James
John Vary
Rich. Smith (son)
Philip 18 July 1776
Sam Huntington
Rob. Alexander
Oliver Wolcott
~~Wolcott~~
Elbridge Gerry
T. Moore
son ad Sergeant
J. Johnson
Wm Whipple
Thos. Hutchinson
Carters Stratton
Thos. Hoys
May 20 Lyman Hall
20th Watton Guinard
William Ellory
Jno Wickhampton

Abram Clark
Geo Walton
John Hart
B. Bush 22 Jan 1776
Wm Williams 30 July 1776
Geo Lyness
John Gentry
Jonathan Elmer
Moses Pigeon
Nathan Brownson Feb 3 1777
Matthew Thornton
James Lovell
Thos Parke
W. Smith
Wm Swan June 5 1777
Nathl Vanduyke
N. Merchant
Geo. Ypocot

ARTICLE IV.

Dues.

There shall be a life membership fee of \$10. No annual dues.

ARTICLE V.

Executive Council.

There shall be an Executive Council, composed of the officers of the Order, which shall be the governing body, who shall make all laws, revise, change and add to the Constitution, create all new official positions and appoint to Council all those qualified to fill such positions (see President General), as also those elected by Order or appointed by head of Order.

When a meeting is called three members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and who may create official positions, change, alter, revise and add to the Constitution, the same as if a full Board were present.

ARTICLE VI.

Officers.

There shall be the following officers of the Order: One President General, three Vice-Presidents General, one Secretary General, one Registrar General, one Treasurer General, one Chaplain General, one Herald Marshal General, one Historian General and twelve Councillors.

ARTICLE VII.

The President General, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents General, shall be empowered to admit to fellowship and membership all those who are qualified to become members, and he shall during the interim of the meetings of the Council create any new official positions and appoint to the Council the person or persons so created and appointed. He shall also admit to honorary membership those so considered suitable for the honor.

ARTICLE VIII.

The members of the Order shall be designated or styled as Fellows.

ARTICLE IX.

The seal or arms of the Order shall be a scroll.

ARTICLE X.

Insignia.

The insignia of the Order shall be: A Maltese Cross, extremities convex, white, each arm charged with two sabres in saltire, or; beneath a mullet azure; surmounted by a shield, quarterly: 1st gules, two cannon in saltire ppr; 2d gules, a liberty bell ppr; 3d, azure, two Indian arrows in saltire ppr; 4th, white, a full rigged ship, or; over all a fess, white, charged with three bugles, or. The whole suspended by a purple ribbon attached to a pin with an eagle displayed, surrounded by a wreath, or.

The meaning of the emblems of insignia is as follows: The eagle for courage and freedom of America; the Maltese cross, emblem of the Crusaders or those who came to America to be free, and the sword indicative of such determination, with the blue star indicating purity and a united country as a whole. The shield shows the warrior; the crossed cannon showing that we are still courageous; the liberty bell, freedom; the arrows indicating the country of the Indians of America; and the ship, colonization of America.

ARTICLE XI.

Rosette.

The rosette of the Order shall be black, with silver star in center.

ARTICLE XII.

The President General, when it is considered advisable, may remit the fees of certain persons when admitted to the Order.

ARTICLE XIII.

Honorary Members.

There may be appointed from time to time certain persons as honorary members of the Order.

ARTICLE XIV.

Meeting Place.

The time and place of meeting of the Order shall be determined as the case warrants by the President General or the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XV.

Knights of the Golden Cross.

There shall be within the Order a subsidiary division or inner circle of the Order, known as the "Knights of the Golden Cross," composed only of the officers of the Order and such others as have been extremely prominent in church or state or in especial prominence in other walks of life in various capacities, provided they descend from one of the "Signers of Secret Pact" or those connected with the Congress of 1775. Each member may wear a small golden cross.

The above resolutions and articles were adopted by the members present as the constitution of the Order.

Incorporated May 7, 1918.

The following are the officers of the Order:

President General, Dr. J. G. B. Bulloch, great-great-grandson of Hon. Archibald Bulloch.

First Vice-President General, Dr. Thomas Featherstonhaugh, descendant of Hon. James Duane.

Second Vice-President General, William Elliott Dunwody, Sr., great-great-great-grandson of Hon. Archibald Bulloch.

Secretary General, Robert J. Foster McCowan.

Treasurer General, Mrs. Paul Anderson (Victoria Neosho Gary),
descended from a brother of Hon. Caesar Rodney.

Registrar General, Gordon Monges Ash, descendant of Hon.
Timothy Matlack.

Historian General, Miss Emma Hamilton Bulloch, great-great-
granddaughter of Hon. Archibald Bulloch.

Councillors of the Order :

Mrs. John Truitt Farrel (Delphine Harland Ash), descendant of
Hon. Timothy Matlack.

Miss Ellen Margareta Farrel, descendant of Hon. Timothy Matlack
Caesar Rodney Gary, descended from a brother of Hon. Caesar
Rodney.

Miss Wilmuth Gary, descended from a brother of Hon. Caesar
Rodney.

William Gaston Glen Bulloch, great-great-great-grandson of Hon.
Archibald Bulloch.

Douglas Eugene St. Cloud Bulloch, great-great-great-grandson of
Hon. Archibald Bulloch.

Mrs. Amos Worthington (Ray McCalla Ash), descendant of Hon.
Timothy Matlack.

Honorary Member—Lieut. Ora A. Martin. U. S. Navy.

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