# American Monthly Magazine

VOL. XVI. WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE, 1900. NO. 6.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING AND CHAPTER WORK.

INDEPENDENCE HALL CHAPTER.—December 13, 1899, is a day that will long be remembered by the charter members of Independence Hall Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, for on that day, in historic Independence Hall, they received their charter from the National Society.

The old Supreme Court room, where the ceremonies were held, was tastefully decorated with the flags which are emblematic of the cause characterizing the American Revolution, the National principles, and thern individuality of the order, and by eleven o'clock, the hour fixed upon, was filled with friends of the Chapter.

The exercises were opened by the singing of our National hymn, "America," followed by a prayer by the Right Reverend Bishop Whitaker. Then our Regent, Miss Baird- Huey, gave a brief and exceedingly interesting history of the Chapter, touching upon the great work done by it during the summer of 1898 before its organization. She predicted a bright future for it and said our motto should be "work *done*: not work talked of."

Mrs. Thomas Roberts, the State Regent, was then introduced. She called attention to the fact that there are three uses to be made of membership: "First, the individual Daughter could feet she was on a pedestal; second, the Chapter could make use of its position as a peg upon which to hang all social events; and third, the members would experience an awakening and would come to a realization that their Chapter is co-ordinate with every forward movement of humanity, as this Chapter has done."

Then on behalf of the National Society, Mrs. Roberts presented Independence Hall Chapter with its charter, which Miss Baird-Huey accepted in the following words:

"Madam State Regent: I accept from your hands the charter of our Chapter, pledging you in the name of Independence Hall Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, loyalty and fidelity to the National Society, and to the National Board of Management, from whom we receive the charter presented by you to us." Then turning to the Chapter: "Members of Independence Hall Chapter, I present to you your charter, my personal gift to the Chapter, framed in wood taken from Independence Hall. And in presenting to you this charter, it is my earnest hope that the harmony of purpose, the unity of action and the uniform courtesy which have characterized the first year of our existence, may characterize each succeeding year, and that as we grow in numbers, and our influence in the community broadens and deepens, our name will be a synonym for loyalty to each other, to our Chapter, to the National Society, our country and our flag."

The charter was received on behalf of the Chapter by Mrs. Quinton. It possesses the especial distinction of being framed with wood originally utilized in the construction of Independence Hall, and is therefore doubly precious.

After the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," the Hon. Hampton L. Carson, the orator of the day, delivered an address. He spoke as follows:

"The time and place of this meeting are very appropriate. The *time* is the one hundred and twelfth anniversary of Penn's ratification of the Constitution of the United States. The day happens to be just before the one hundredth anniversary of the death of Washington. The *place* of this meeting is eminently suitable, because it is immediately opposite the hall in which the Constitution of the United States was framed." Dr. Carson then referred to the famous *women* of history and said that the same love and care which supported our forefathers in their struggles, was now being shown by mothers, wives and sisters, to encourage the young warriors in the Philippines, and elsewhere. Continuing he said, "I was deeply impressed by your Regent's statement of what had been done in a brief year. I rejoice that American women are everywhere joining in the patriotic work and research of the men. That flag belongs to American *women* as well as *men*. A woman stitched those inextinguishable stars in their place. It was a woman who told of Howe's intended surprise; it was a woman that George Washington depended upon for sympathy, advice and help."

At the close of Dr. Carson's remarks, Miss Huey presented him with a cane made of some of the same wood which framed our charter, and which, therefore, was taken from Independence Hall. The cane was mounted in silver on which was inscribed, "Independence Hall Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, December 13, 1899"—and was Miss Huey's personal gift to Dr. Carson.

Mr. John H. Converse was to have delivered an address, also Lieutenant Colonel McCauley, but, unfortunately for us, both were prevented from being present.

"Hail Columbia" was then sung by the audience, after which Bishop Whitaker pronounced the benediction in place of the Rev. Dr. Snively, who also was prevented from being with us.

Thus were the exercises connected with our charter presentation closed. We are now members of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and as such, may Independence Hall Chapter grow in strength and unity of purpose, so that "with malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting place among ourselves and with all nations."

Immediately following our charter presentation we held our first annual luncheon at the Stratford. Covers were laid for forty-six. Our guests were the State Regent, Mrs. Roberts; the State Regent of New Jersey, Miss Batcheller, and Mrs. Abner Hoopes, ex-Vice-President General of Pennsylvania.

The luncheon took the form of a progressive affair, the ladies changing their places three different times, so that every member of the Board had the opportunity of meeting and talking to the guests, and the other ladies becoming better acquainted than they otherwise would.

Mrs. Quinton was first called upon and responded by a toast to our fore-*mothers*, to be drunk standing.

Mrs. Roberts was then asked to speak upon "Our Pride and Strength, the National Society," which she did in a most interesting and entertaining manner. Mrs. Roberts said she could not close her remarks without a few words about Continental Memorial Hall, towards the erection and completion of which she hoped that Independence Hall Chapter would use all its strength.

Mrs. Hoch then kindly sang for us, after which Miss Emily R. Perkins read an original poen, the theme being the history of the Chapter.

Mrs. Atwater spoke on American history. Following the conclusion of Mrs. Atwater's remarks, Miss Huey presented the Chapter with a beautiful banner of satin in the National Society colors, bearing the insignia of the National Society, the name of the Chapter and the date of its organization, January 3, 1899.

It was not only a great and agreeable surprise, but contributed no little to the patriotic spirit permeating and characterizing the occasion.

A unique feature in the table decoration was the insignia of the Society copied in silk and flowers. The wheel was made of blue liberty silk, the spokes being worked out with gold colored ribbon, while thirteen white carnations formed the stars. The flag was of silver paper twisted around the distaff, a gilded stick, the whole forming a very pretty and original design. After the luncheon, each of our three guests was presented with a souvenir consisting of one of these decorations, and so terminated the first annual luncheon of our Chapter.—AGNES TREVETTE BEATES, Historian.