

## **History of the Virginia Branch of the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, March 1976 to March 1980 (transcribed from original handwritten report)**

The organizing meeting of the Virginia Branch was held at the home and Mr. and Mrs. James G. Somerville on March 28, 1976. Mrs. Charles G. Holle, Governor General of the National Society and Maj. Gen. Charles G. Holle were present.

The organizing members present were: Mrs. Lawrence M. Ames, Mrs. Harry H. Black, Mrs. John W. Davis, Mrs. Thomas G. Deshazo, Mrs. Foley W. Harris, Maj Gen and Mrs. Charles E. Loucks, Mrs. James A. Samouce, Mrs. Robert C. Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Somerville, and Col. James A. Samouce, associate member.

Mrs. Holle installed the following officers: Mrs. James G. Somerville, Governor; Mrs. Robert C. Schultz, Elder; Mrs. Foley W. Harris, Recording Secretary; Mrs. John W. Davis, Treasurer; Mrs. Charles E. Loucks, Registrar; Mr. James G. Somerville, Historian.

Mrs. Darins W. Gaskins, Sr. Deputy Governor was unable to attend this meeting due to illness.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held on Oct. 3, 1976, at the home of Mrs. Foley W. Harris. The Governor announced that the Virginia Branch was formally recognized at the General Court and Annual Meeting of the National Society held at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC in April, 1976.

The annual meeting of the Virginia Branch was held at the home of Mrs. John W. Davis on March 6, 1977. The Governor announced the following appointments: Mrs. Thomas G. Deshazo, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Lawrence M. Ames, Parliamentarian; Bylaws Committee: Mrs. Ames, Chairman, Gen. Charles E. Loucks, Mrs. Charles E. Loucks.

The following officers were elected for a term of three years: Mrs. James G. Somerville, Governor; Mrs. Darius W. Gaskins, Deputy Governor; Mrs. Robert C. Shultz, Elder; Mrs. Foley W. Harris, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Thomas G. Deshazo, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. John W. Davis, Treasurer; Mrs. Charles E. Loucks, Registrar; Mr. James G. Somerville, Historian.

On Oct 2, 1977, the Branch held a meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Somerville. Gen Loucks, Delegate to the General Court and Annual Meeting of the National Society, reported that Mrs. Somerville, our Branch Governor, had been elected Corresponding Secretary General of the National Society at that meeting in April.

The annual meeting of the Branch was held March 5, 1978, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Somerville. Mrs. Jack C. Pamplin was welcomed as a new member. A proposed draft of bylaws for the Virginia Branch was presented by Mrs. Ames, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. This was voted upon and passed.

Delegates were elected for General Court; Mrs. Harris and Mrs. Gaskins, delegates, and Mrs. Somerville, alternate.

The Fall meeting was held on Oct. 8, 1978, at the home of Mrs. Foley W. Harris.

Six Proposed new members were voted on by ballot and elected. Four of these submitted applications which were later approved. They were Mrs. William Haynes, Mrs. William R. Light, Mrs. John Neate, and Mrs. Robert I. Miller.

The next meeting was a luncheon meeting held on March 10, 1979 at the Old Club Restaurant in Alexandria.

Delegates were elected for the General Court to be held April 16, 1979. Those elected were Gen. Loucks and Mrs. Gaskins, delegates and Mr. Somerville, alternative.

The resignation of Mrs. Harris as Recording Secretary, submitted because of pressing obligations, was accepted with regret and Mrs. John Neate was elected Recording Secretary for the remainder of the present term.

A nominating committee was elected to recommend a slate of officers for election at the March 1980 meeting. Those elected were Mrs. Light, Mrs. Gaskins and Mrs. Neate.

In each year covered by this record of the Virginia Branch history, donations were made by the Branch to the three projects sponsored by the National Society: namely, the Cook Christian Training School, the Dr. Bicknell Scholarship Fund, and the Cathedral of the Pines.

James G. Somerville,  
Historian