

U. S. Must Regain Spirit of Pioneers

Stokes Gives Address At Fall Meeting of Sons Of Revolution

This country must regain the courageous pioneer spirit of its founders if it is to meet and overcome the obstacles in its path, declared former Governor E. C. Stokes in an address yesterday at the annual Fall meeting and luncheon of the New Jersey Society, Sons of the Revolution. His address was made following the luncheon at the Log Cabin Lodge, Medford Lakes, which brought to a close a pilgrimage of historic spots in Bordentown, Crosswicks and Mount Holly.

"The Sons of the Revolution are the link between the patriotic and courageous past and the rather timid and pessimistic present," said the Governor. "We sometimes overemphasize the self-sufficiency of the present; we act as though we were the architects of our present civilization. We forget the present is the outcome of the past. We owe much to the past—our Bible, our religion, our ten commandments, our school system, our Fourth of July, our independence, our Constitution—all come to us from the past, reminding us of the pioneers who broke new pathways that our feet more easily may tread. Today is our inheritance of yesterday."

Lauds Early Colonists

Touching upon the courage of those men of an earlier day, the Governor asked:

"Are we keeping pace with this pioneer spirit of old? Compare the America of today with the America of our forefathers just after the close of the Revolutionary War. There was not enough coin or specie to carry on trade or commerce. Indeed, there was no trade or commerce. Every one of the 13 colonies was in debt and the National Government was likewise in debt. It took a real barrel load of continental money to buy a pair of boots.

"Agriculture had broken down, industry did not exist, everybody was unemployed and there was no one to subscribe to unemployment funds for relief, and yet our farmers did not complain or ask for Government relief. Our forefathers faced these hardships. They paid our national debt to Europe dollar for dollar, without whining as the European nations are today and without asking for any remission or cancellation, and they won prosperity and built up the greatest nation on earth.

"The difference between the nation of today and the nation of that day is the difference between timidity and the pioneer spirit. Our forefathers, your ancestors, were pioneers. If we keep up our pioneer spirit prosperity will return. We do not face the difficulties that our forefathers faced and conquered. As a man thinketh so is he. With our tremendous resources in this land, when he thinks we have hard times the slump is in our heads. When a horse balks the trouble is not in his legs but in his head. When his head thinks right his legs move right.

Must Regain Pioneer Spirit

"When we regain the courageous pioneer spirit of our fathers this nation will go on to prosperity without any artificial means or devices, and we shall have a new era of a country not government-ruled but people-ruled—a government of the people, for the people and by the people."

Earlier in the day, at the Meeting House at Crosswicks, George B. DeCou had addressed the society, speaking of the events that took place in and around Crosswicks during the Revolution. The Meeting House itself is a link with those early days, for it was used at the time as a hospital and barracks by the British. It still carries the mark of a cannon ball fired by the Americans in an engagement when they were located on the opposite side of the creek and attempted to cross the bridge just north of the Meeting House. Benches and floor still show marks made by the British muskets.

Other places visited on the pilgrimage were the Francis Hopkinson House, Hoagland's Tavern, the site of the house of Colonel Joseph Borden, site of the inn of Dr. Joseph Brown, where Benjamin Franklin on his journey from Boston to Philadelphia in 1723, spent the night, and the Clara Barton House, all in Bordentown; the Chesterfield Meeting House at Crosswicks, the old Black Horse Tavern, at Columbus; the John Woolman house, built by the famous Quaker preacher for his daughter; the Stephen Girard house, where during the occupation of Philadelphia by the British in 1777-78, Girard and his wife lived and sold "small beer and cider"; the site of the Battle of Iron Works Hill and the Mill Street Tavern, all in Mount Holly.

Olden Presides

Walter H. Olden, of Princeton, presided at the meeting. Those attending that function and making the pilgrimage were, in addition to Mr. Olden and former Governor Stokes:

B. W. B. Brown, of New York City, president of the New York Society, Sons of the Revolution; Mr. DeCou, Howard L. Hughes, Harry P. Moorhead, Dr. Charles F. Adams, Willard P. Clark, William E. Blackman, Newton A. K. Bugbee, William P. Ivins, I. Trumbull Wood, Lyman M. Leavitt, Captain O. D. Oliphant, Louis S. Rice, all of Trenton; State Senator A. Crozer Reeves, of Lawrenceville; William L. Ulyat, of Princeton; Edward P. Johnson, of Somerville; Howard C. Hendrickson and William C. Gattell, of Wenonah; Thomas A. Mathis, of Toms River; Horace G. Githens, of Merchantville, and guest, Mr. Maxwell, of Philadelphia; Judge Charles Mecum, J. Forman Sinnickson, Lieutenant Commander Charles H. Mecum and J. Dale Dilworth, of Salem; Louis B. LeDuc and Joseph R. Bodine, of Haddonfield; Dr. Kirk B. Barb. H. Genet Taylor, of Camden, and Senator William H. Blackwell, of Titusville.

STRIKERS STORM