

MINUTES

Of a Meeting of Descendents of Francis Scott Key
and Mary Tayloe Lloyd held at St. John's College, Annapolis,
Maryland, on May 22, 1959.

Invitations to the dedication of the FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEMORIAL
HALL on the Campus of St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, having
been sent to 123 addresses of descendents by the College, the following
assembled at that place on May 22, 1959:

Miss Ellen Key Blunt
Miss Elizabeth Blunt
Col. & Mrs. Wilfrid M. Blunt
Col. & Mrs. Arthur T. Brice
Gen. & Mrs. Richard W. Cutts
Mr. George Washington Dobbin
Mrs. Robert A. Dobbin
Mrs. William Harvey Doyle, Jr.
Mr. Howard Hay Doyle
Mrs. S. Wilson Heaton
Mrs. William Tabor Jarvis
Mrs. John Forsyth Joline, Jr.
Mr. Laurence Turnbull Joline
Mr. Christian Albert Keller
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Scott Key

Mrs. Herrick Faber Kidder
Mr. Edward Lloyd
Mrs. Josephine Browne Masi
Mrs. James Edward Palmer
Mr. Gilbert Key-Smith
Mr. Robert H. Key-Smith
Mrs. Miles P. Standish
Mr. John T. Wainwright
Miss Mary Katherine Weld
Miss Katherine Key-Smith
Mrs. Morgan Burdette Schiller
Miss Mary Howard Lloyd

After an impressive dedication ceremony which was attended by
The President of the United States - Dwight D. Eisenhower - and a buffet
luncheon served on the College Campus - all of the above-listed members of
the Francis Scott Key family - with the exceptions of Mrs. Palmer, Mr. Keller,
and Miss Lloyd, - assembled in a conference room of the Memorial Hall.

The purpose of the meeting, as outlined in the call to assembly, was
to consider the formation of a permanent Key Family Society to establish and
maintain in the St. John's College Library complete genealogical data and
records of the Family.

The meeting was opened at approximately 2:30 PM by the President of
St. John's College, Dr. Richard D. Weigle, who welcomed the descendents

of Francis Scott Key, Class of 1796, to the College. Dr. Weigle stated that, ever since his advent to St. John's College a decade ago, he had hoped for a memorium to that honorable and distinguished gentleman and alumnus - our ancestor - that would be of a permanent nature; and that he had also hoped for the establishment of a Key Family Society that would be related in some way to the College. He reported that, as a result of the efforts of the Old Dominion Foundation, the Maryland Historical Society, the Board of Governors of the College, and the friends and alumni of the College, the ground-breaking for the memorium had taken place in October, 1956. He offered to the proposed Key Family Society the freedom of the Memorial Hall, the use of the St. John's College Library, and secretarial service and assistance to facilitate the collection and maintenance in the Library of complete genealogical data and records of the Society and Family. Dr. Weigle also brought to the attention of those present the fact that the interior decoration of the Lobby of the Memorial Hall had not been completed, and that the College would like to have a memorial plaque, tablet, or bas-relief for the space above the fountain in the entry, covered at the time by a United States Flag of 1815. Dr. Weigle withdrew, and the meeting was turned over to Col. Brice - (Cousin Arthur).

Cousin Arthur explained how the idea of a Key Family Society had come up in his immediate family, and told of the work that had been done by himself and his wife (Cousin Alice) - Mrs. Joline, his Sister (also a Cousin Alice) - Col. Blunt (Cousin Wilfrid) - Mr. Donald Key King (a professional genealogist but not in our direct lines) - the Library and Secretarial Staff of St. John's College - and others - toward compiling a complete genealogy and directory of living

MINUTES ----- (3)

descendents. He told how he and Cousin Alice, when his Mother, Cousin Jeannie, was confined to a wheel chair in her old age, as something to occupy her time and thoughts, had set her about the task of listing her "100 First Cousins" - which she had often mentioned, not quite believing that she could do it, and how she had recalled from memory by name 75 of them, with some of whom a correspondence was started, family interest aroused, and ancestral diggings begun. Cousin Jeannie died at age 90 in 1950, and Cousin Arthur - hoping to amass for himself the 100 cousins, as his Mother had, and he had not - had continued the work and correspondence from that time - thinking at the same time that it might be nice for all of us to know each other better so that we might all be able to claim 100 or more cousins. He concluded his report and remarks by stating that finally - thanks to the help of those mentioned - he had discovered that the St. John's Library had compiled a list of 118 of us - just the right number to fill one of the new jet passenger airliners by which he expected to return to California after the meeting. The meeting was then turned over to Col. Blunt (Cousin Wilfrid).

Cousin Wilfrid stated that he had been very pleased by the number of descendents who had responded to the notice sent to them all; and that out of 118 sent, only 8 were returned undelivered - indicating that the St. John's mailing list is essentially correct as to addresses. He informed us that he had conferred with President Weigle and advised that a perpetual record of the Key Family could be established and maintained in the Library of St. John's College in the event that we might decide to form a permanent Key Family Society. As a matter of genealogical interest he reported that the record of

service of John Ross Key as an Officer in the American Revolution had been lost - so that any of us who might wish to establish eligibility for membership in the Society of the Cincinnati through lineal descent from John Ross Key , 1754 - 1821, would be disappointed. Mrs. Standish, at this juncture, stated that a record of John Ross Key's service as an Officer in the Revolution existed in Faunce's Tavern in New York City, and volunteered to look it up on her way home to Connecticut. The meeting was then turned back to Cousin Arthur.

Cousin Arthur called for discussion from the floor, and suggested that we might appoint an "Acting Board of Regents" of seven or eight to study the problem of establishing a permanent Society and report to the Family as a whole at a future meeting. He mentioned that Mr. Foster, the Director of the Maryland Historical Society, had offered the use of the Key room of that Society in Baltimore - in its present building or in the larger room in their proposed new building expected to be started during the next five years - to any such permanent Key Family Society that might be formed.

There was a general discussion from the floor on the question as to whether or not any such permanent Family Society should be formed. Cousin Arthur pointed out that we would have to establish certain rules of eligibility for membership, and stated that he would favor not more than two classes of membership - "Hereditary", for all direct lineal descendents, -and "Associate", for husbands and wives only of direct lineal descendents. He also made small mention of dues at this time. Cousin Laurie Joline suggested that we consider what kind of a Society we might have in mind - whether of a sophisticated type with annual dues, or of simpler type merely for the purpose of keeping up the genealogical record.

It seemed the concensus of opinion that the primary purpose of the Society should be for the establishment and maintenance of complete genealogical records - although no vote on this question was taken. It was pointed out that almost all of us have Key memorabilia of one kind or another - letters, documents, portraits, and other physical property of our ancestor, which few of us would be willing to part with. Mrs. Jarvis (Cousin Edith) suggested that a temporary Secretary should be appointed.

A voice vote on the question was taken and passed in favor of forming a permanent Key Family Society.

Since he lived in Baltimore, and knew Mr. Foster of Maryland Historical Society personally, Mr. George Washington Dobbin, Jr. (Cousin George) was nominated and accepted the appointment to act as Secretary and representative of the group to it's sponsors designated as St. John's College, of Annapolis, Md., and the Maryland Historical Society, of Baltimore, Md.

The question of rules of eligibility for membership - whether "Hereditary" and/or "Associate" or other was again raised and discussed briefly. Since there were only approximately 21% of the known living descendents on the St. John's College mailing present, it was moved and passed that this question be tabled until a latter date; and suggested that a write-in vote by mail on it could be allowed.

Mrs. Jarvis (Cousin Edith) suggested that someone should study the structure of some of the old Boston Family Societies, which could be of use to us in patterning our own. Cousin Arthur requested her to undertake such a study, and agreed to act as temporary chairman of a planning Committee or "Acting Board

MINUTES - - - - - (6)

of Regents" for the Family. He called for volunteers for members of such a Committee. The following accepted nominations and were appointed:

Gen. Cutts (Cousin Dick)
Mr. Dobbin (Cousin George)
Col. Blunt (Cousin Wilfrid)
Mr. Lloyd (Cousin Edward)
Mrs. Jarvis (Cousin Edith)
Mrs. Schiller (Cousin Elizabeth)
Mr. Key (Cousin Frank)
Mrs. Wm. Ward Clore (Cousin Catherine - in
absentia)
Mrs. Masi (Cousin Josephine)

There was general discussion as to the proper time and place for the next meeting - to be for the purpose of acting on the recommendations of the Planning Committee. Cousins Dick Cutts, Laurie Joline, and John Wainwright, pointed out that commencement time at St. John's College would be an imposition on the President of the College, having so many other matters of importance to attend to at such a time.

Photographs of a portrait of our ancestor Francis Scott Key painted by the well known Artist Charles Wilson Peale during the year 1796 in which he graduated from St. John's, and now in the possession of Cousin Arthur were shown, and there was brief discussion on the possibility of having a bronze bas-relief done from it by a recognized sculptress in California. No decision was reached.

As it was getting late and some of the Cousins had some distances to go to reach home, the meeting was adjourned at about 5:00 PM - (sine die).

As the meeting was of an informal nature - many of the Cousins were meeting each other for the first time - no agenda or order of business had been prescribed, and there was confusion at times - apologies are hereby extended to those who may have taken part in the discussions or made recommendations or suggestions and whose names may have been passed over by your reporter.

ELLEN KEY BLUNT