

The Fellowship Society



HISTORY of SOCIETY

compiled up to 200th anniversary

THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY

The official date of the founding of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY in Charlestown, Province of South Carolina is April 4, 1762, as verified by the almost unbroken sequence of minutes of the meetings that have, in one way or another, been studiously kept from April 12, 1769, immediately preceding the incorporation of the organization with the blessings of His Majesty, the King of England and the Colonial governor, to the present.

The day, according to contemporary writings, was a balmy Sunday, Edward Weyman, Charlestown Revolutionary patriot, son of the Rev. Robert Weyman, pioneer missionary of the Church of England, called a small group of his friends to meet at his house (which is believed to have been in East Bay Street near Tradd Street).

Though of no great wealth himself, the founder of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, concerned himself with the lack of medical treatment for the indigent, especially those of unsound mind, and his primary purpose was to organize the small group to build a hospital for the ill and to provide for needy widows and orphans. It was to be the first society organized for such a singular purpose in the nation, being preceded only by the St. Andrews Society, The St. George Society, and the South Carolina Society and these only by a few years.

Unfortunately, there were no records kept at this initial meeting, but it is certain that the group included James Brown, Robert Cripps, John Troup and Isaac Huger, Darby Pendergrass and others who were to play leading roles, not only in THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, but in the affairs of the colony so soon to go through the awesome times of revolution, death, fire and siege.

The Society functioned in the years between its founding and the date of its incorporation, August 23rd, 1769, much as it did after the incorporation under the rule of the Royal Governor William Bull, but again, unfortunately, no regular minutes were kept to detail these formative days.

Old Charleston has given birth to many organizations devoted to charity, to goodwill and to patriotism in its long history but none of these organizations has a more distinguished, notable and honorable history than THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

Founded to succor the poor and the ill by the saintly Edward Weyman, a Philadelphian who adopted Charleston as his home, two hundred years ago, the society has had on its membership-rolls great statesman, warriors, ministers, doctors, jurists, businessmen and planters.

It has weathered wars, fires, hurricanes, depressions and earthquakes and it was in these times, that the nobleness of the society was in evidence for from its bounty, it gave to those who suffered because of those disasters.

No member's widow or child has suffered want, and the society's method of donating to a family immediately on the death of a member, is unique among such organizations.

But not only families of members benefited from the society's largess, but the whole of the population since it was a grant of \$3,000 made by the authority in 1858 that enabled a public school system for boys and girls to be established here.

Only two pictures hang today in the memorial room of old Memminger Girl's School. One is of Robert Memminger, himself, who was school board chairman at that time, and Edward Weyman, the father of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

All of Charleston, all of South Carolina and the nation itself is richer because of that Sunday afternoon, 200 years ago when Weyman founded THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

The Society's great seal, that of a mother, nursing one child while she teaches a second

and a third is at her knee, is symbolic of all that is good in the world and all that the society stands for.

How well chosen is its motto:

"Posterity mea dona laudabunt" (Posterity will applaud my benefactions).

It can be assumed, from later writings, that the members started holding their meetings at the various homes of the members on Sunday afternoons, but this was found inexpedient and the dates of the meetings were changed to each Wednesday night and they were held in various taverns or boarding houses where food and drink were available. One of these is known to have been "The Coffee House" at the intersection of Tradd Street and Bedon's Alley.

During these years, the society gradually arrived at its plans for the charitable work it was to do, and that the plans were well made, is evidenced in the fact that since that time, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY has increased in wealth and resultantly increased in the scope of its humane undertakings.

No doubt, Edward Weyman guided the fledgling organization through these early years with a zeal that was to characterize him until his death January 6, 1793.

Just who was Edward Weyman? To know this philanthropist and patriot, and man of God, it is necessary to go back to Oxford, Pennsylvania, where he was born—a son of God-fearing parents August II, 1730. He passed his youth in Philadelphia where on June 17th, 1751, he married the beautiful Rebecca Brientnall, some three years his junior.

He brought his bride and children to Charlestown sometime between 1755 and 1756 and became attached to governmental service.

He held various governmental jobs as a vocation, but his boundless "Yankee" energy and youth, would not be served by prosaic and routine office jobs and he threw himself into the affairs of the civic life of the Colony and City he adopted as his home. There is no record of why he chose Charlestown as his foster home but it can be imagined that he was sent to Charlestown by superiors in government.

He was distressed at the suffering among the poor, the slaves and the ill, but nothing touched Edward Weyman's pity as much as the "Lunnatiks", those unfortunates who were of unsound mind and who were herded together in "Pest Houses" or left to wander aimlessly through the streets of Charlestown. . At the time, it was customary to banish idiots, morons and other mental cases from the city where they fell prey to the Indians that constantly menaced the walled city of Charlestown.

In 1762, at about the same time he called together his friends to organize THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, he was appointed Royal Commissioner to the Indians where his humaneness, served in good stead and much was done through his offices to belay the hostility that existed between the tribes and the Colonists, many of whom had been slaughtered in the country.

His patriotism erupted in 1765 when Great Britain began enforcing "The Stamp Act" so repulsive to the free-thinking Colonists. In that year he was appointed by "The Council of Safety" as one of a "Committee of Three" to obtain, by force if necessary, a quantity of stamped paper which had been brought to Charlestown by a sloop of war and which was stored on heavily fortified Fort Johnson.

Three companies of volunteers were quickly raised and in the still of the night, crept into the unsuspecting fort and destroyed the stamped paper which was to have been purchased by the colonists for recording of deeds and other official papers.

It is possible that this overt act, which enraged the Crown, was spearheaded by the former

missionary's son whose role certainly must have remained secret, since it is doubtful that the British Parliament and the King would have acceded to a request for incorporation of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY had they known the president of the society's role in the Fort Johnson affair.

He continued his ministrations to the Indians through the perilous times immediately preceding the war and in 1775, he was appointed a member of the Provisional Congress from St. Phillip's and St. Michael's Parish which then embraced all of Charlestown and the outlying areas.

As the Revolution came closer, he was appointed to the rebellious and very secret "Committee of Five" by the newly formed and 'revolutionary Provincial Congress to devise the means of defense of Charlestown, superintend the moves of fellow citizens and direct opposition to tyrannical power.

Other members of this committee were William H. Drayton, Arthur Middleton, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and William Gibbes, all men of sterling and patriotic me in, and all of whom were to play a most important part in the affairs of the Colony of South Carolina and later the State of South Carolina and in the nation as a whole.

Later that year, he was again named to a secret committee for special prosecution of the "Cold War" against Great Britain. Serving with him on that most important committee were Drayton, Barnard Elliott, George Gabriel Powell, William Tennent, Middleton, Pinckney, Gibbes, John Huger, Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Thomas Bee.

Middleton, Lynch and Pinckney were later to become signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Rutledge was to become governor of a Free South Carolina and was to become a devoted friend and ally of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

With tempers hot and the province tom between those loyal to the Crown and those ardently pursuing freedom, Edward Weyman became a member of the "Liberty Tree Party", an organization bitterly hated by the English. Its members faced grave danger of reprisals. The "Liberty Tree Party" was advocated in 1766, 10 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, by Christopher Gadsden, and it is recorded that this was the first time outright independence was advocated in America.

The "Liberty Tree", which was located in Mazycks Pasture near where is now Elizabeth and Calhoun Streets, came about accidently. Pressed by the colonists, the British repealed the Stamp Act in that year and all patriots assembled under the huge tree to celebrate the move. Gadsden, a fiery orator, took the lead and in a ringing oration, advocated complete independence to the cheers of Weyman and others assembled. The patriots continued to meet beneath the tree until Charlestown fell to the British in 1780. There is no indication the tree was injured in the Seige of Charlestown since it was outside the city walls but it is most probable that the British cut it down.

Edward Weyman, because of his devotion to the cause of freedom, was named Marshall of the Admiralty and served in that capacity in the perilous years of 1778 and 1779 when Charlestown was under seige by the British; and when the city fell in 1780, he was one of 22 prominent Charlestonians arrested by order of Lord Cornwallis' and sent as prisoners to St. Augustine.

A great gap exists during this period in the minutes of The Fellowship Society and it is not recorded that Weyman was arrested but in 1782, when' the British had been crushed, Weyman returned to Chariest own as a lieutenant in the Charles Town Ancient Battalion of Artillery and was, in 1782, a captain in Horry's Regiment of Marion's Brigade.

Weyman, a devoted Mason, was named senior grand warden of the Grand Lodge of

Ancient York Masons and just before his death, January 6, 1793, he was named Surveyor of the Port of Charlestown, meanwhile having attained the rank of major.

The founder of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY is buried in St. Phillip's Churchyard, hard by the entrance gate on Church Street. Here on September 16, 1947, the society erected a marker at the grave. Taking part in the ceremonies were two direct descendants of Edward Weyman, Harold S. Reeves and Major O. Francis Dukes.

That Edward Weyman's memory will be perpetrated as long as there is a FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, has been assured in that at each annual meeting a toast is proposed to his memory.

There hangs in the society's hall a handsome portrait of the gentleman in oils, and a duplicate given to Memminger School in memory of the society's generosity and interest in the former Girls' Academy, now hangs in the Memminger Memorial Room in School District 20's headquarters in the old Craft School.

Edward Weyman fathered 11 children. The first was Mary, born in Philadelphia, March 10, 1752. Robert who followed on August 19, 1753, was also born in Philadelphia.

Anna was born in Charleston, June 8, 1756 but died shortly after birth. The next child was also named Anna, born April 4, 1757 but she also died. John was born in Charleston, (as were all subsequent children after the first Anna) on November 30, 1760.

William followed on June 6, 1762, just three months after THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY was founded, but he too, died as an infant. Two Thomases followed, the first on September 19, 1764, and the second, April 25, 1776, both to die as infants.

Edward was born on September 26, 1768, and Rebecca on January 21, 1776, the year of American Independence. Both of the latter survived, at least through infancy for there is no record of the others except Edward who was to become a member of the Society.

So of the eleven children born, only six survived infancy. These were Mary, Robert, Elizabeth, John, Edward and Rebecca.

Such was the man who founded THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY and whose name has been revered through 200 years, not only by the members of this illustrious organization, but the countless hundreds of widows, orphans, the ill and the needy, to beneficence he conceived and bore to fruit, have sided.

It is easy to conceive that during the formative years, Edward Weyman, as are all men of noble purpose, was at time discouraged. It was early evident that his most treasured charity, that of helping the mentally ill, was unworkable in a time when these poor people were spurned and avoided.

It was also obvious that the second charity, that of a hospital or an infirmary, was also premature but the society was gradually building its financial and numerical strength. It early decreed that should a member die, his widow would immediately be given a sum of money, usually about \$25.00 for immediate needs, regardless of financial status. This is a practice that has continued to this day.

The aim of the society is best illustrated by scripture passages which precede the Preface and the Rules. Deuteronomy, Chapter 15, the Eleventh Verse leads the Preface: "The poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, thy shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy Poor and to thy Needy in thy land."

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble" (taken from the Forty-First Psalm, Verse One), introduces the Rules of the Society.

The Great Seal of the organization will be treated in proper aspect.

The first formal minutes of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY were recorded at the annual meeting of April 12, 1769, held at the House of William Holliday and at which the founder, Edward Weyman, presided. The minutes are short, for it must be remembered that the society was still four months away from incorporation.

Officers listed were: Edward Weyman, president; James Brown and Robert Cripps, wardens; Darby Pendergrass, treasurer; John Kesson, Secretary; and Charles Johnson and George Robinson, stewards.

It was noted in the minutes that members, who had been members since the society's founding in 1762 were Weyman and Pendergrass - also Jacob Boomer, John Cargill, William Tressler and Benjamin Hawes.

Doubtless, the subject of incorporation had been discussed before, and it was discussed at this meeting but it was not until a week later that concrete action was begun. Here also appears the first notification of a donation to the funds of the society which was presented by William Blake in the amount of 50 pounds.

The secretary was ordered to express the society's thanks to the donor through notices placed in the newspaper.

But more significant was the fact that at this meeting, the Society's petition was presented to the organization for the first time but the reading of the document for the first time was postponed as it was in subsequent meeting nights until June 7, 1769, at which time it was adopted and ordered sent to the Provincial Assembly.

During this time, it was noted (May 10, 1769) that the first member, John Allen, had been "read out" of the organization for not paying his dues, a notation that appeared rather frequently in subsequent minutes.

During this period also, the society agreed to meet every two weeks "because of the hot weather" and on June 16, 1769, was recorded the first special meeting to attend the funeral of a deceased member John Motte at the Baptist Meeting House.

The Society marked time for the next several meetings awaiting the adoption of their petition by the General Assembly of which Peter Manigault was president and on the 23rd day of August, the petition was adopted and an act was passed accepting the petition.

The General Assembly, however, noted that the act of incorporation could not be immediately granted and should "not be of force until His Majesty's approbation thereof be obtained and signified to the Governor or Commander-In-Chief of this Province for the time being".

The petition and act was then forwarded to The Court of St. James for the approval of that court. This was not to be forthcoming until August 1770, though it was granted by the Crown June 15, 1770. Slowness of communications were no doubt the cause of the delay.

Meanwhile, now certain that there would be incorporation, the Society began to grow and shape its course. These included a decision not to purchase any lands for a hospital or other uses until incorporation was at hand.

The society inaugurated the practice of sending leftover vitals to the various jails, workhouses and institutions for the poor - and it continued assessing fines against misbehavior by members and reading out those not paying dues.

The first pedestal of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY was ordered in 1770, and it was decreed that the name of the organization was to be emblazoned in large letters in front. : An order was subsequently given to James Brown for the work.

One member, according to the minutes; seemed during this period to be a thorn in the society's side because of his "misbehavior". It was recorded that John Pooley was on several occasions fined for creating a disturbance and once for criticizing the society in public. However, he apologized and is mentioned frequently later as belonging to several important committees. Present members may wonder why the society returned one Guinea. to an "unknown Lady" who had donated that amount to the society's charitable work.

The pedestal was delivered August 16, 1770, and John Brown was paid his 106 pounds.

Here was about to happen one of the most important events in the Society's long life. . . . the receipt of the Charter of Incorporation at the meeting of August 29, 1770.

Col. Henry Laurens, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of South Carolina, had received the precious document a few days early and on this meeting night it was delivered to President Weyman.

Stephen Cottrell, of the Court of St. James, wrote with the document:

"Which Act (that adopted by the Provincial Assembly the previous year) has been perused and considered by the Lords Commissioners for trades and plantations, and by them presented to His Majesty, at this board as proper and be approved:

"His Majesty was thereupon this day pleased, with the advice of his privy council, to declare his approbation of the said act; and pursuant to His Majesty's royal pleasure, thereupon expressed, the said act is hereby confirmed, finally enacted and ratified accordingly.

In October 1770, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY found that William Holliday's House was not spacious enough to accommodate its meetings and, with the consent of the membership, decreed that the meetings would be held at the house of Elisha Poinsett.

The first recording of an annual "Charity Sermon" is recorded when the Rev. George Cooper agreed to preach such a sermon at St. Michael's Church on April 10, 1771. These sermons were decided upon as a charity venture since the Society's members would take up a collection for the poor at the door of the church.

It was also on this date that Edward Weyman, founder and pillar of the society, decided to bow out as its leader and at tht., annual meeting that date, James Brown, a faithful follower of Weyman, Cripps. and others, was elected the second president of the society.

However, Brown realizing the terrific import of the job, asked that he be excused but the membership persuaded him to take the office and he did.

Two months later, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, took its first steps to becoming property owners and asked the organization's good friend, Colonel Henry Laurens to sell it a portion of the property he owned at Hampsted for the purpose of erecting a hospital, "according to the intensions of the society."

A committee, headed by Ex-President Weyman looked into the matter. and at the next meeting the committee reported that it recommended the purchase of three lots on "the most easy terms". Accordingly, on July 3, 1771, It was arranged to purchase the three lots from Colonel Henry Laurens by bond of 600 pounds for cash.

One month later, the Society evidently pleased with its first purchase, agreed to purchase two more lots, adjacent the first three, from William Barnfield for 300 pounds. The lots were located on what is now known as the Mall on Columbus Street near East Bay Street.

Now being property holders, the membership voted in October 1771, to mark their property with four brick pillars, one at each corner. There is no evidence, after a diligent search, that there remains any residue of these pillars today.

With Robert Cripps succeeding James Brown as President at the annual meeting in 1772, the society began to flex its financial muscles and advertised in Crowches Gassette that it had seven hundred pounds to loan "on good personal security".

Pursuing its aims as a charitable and religious organization, the society had printed numerous copies of its rules which were distributed to the various clergymen of the city, and a request was made for donations; but the denominations, occupied with their own charities, had little in the way to offer this radical, for its time, society.

But donations were becoming to be almost rote for the organization. Following the annual meeting of the 14th of April 1773, William Middleton, prosperous merchant and planter, donated 350 pounds to bring the society's cash worth to five thousand three hundred and ninety pounds and six pence. William Wragg, for whom Wragg Square is named, gave another one hundred pounds which Edward Oats, the new president, gratefully received in behalf of the Society.

Thomas Grimball, whose descendants still are prominent in Low country affairs, noted that the Society's President did not possess a suitable chair and corrected this situation by presenting a handsomely carved seat to the Society on July 14, 1773.

Two weeks later, the Society discharged its debt to Colonel Laurens by paying him in "coin of the realm", the six hundred pounds due for the Hampstead lots. It is noted that the Society thanked the Colonel for his benevolence in not charging interest on the debt.

With dangerous and trouble times at hand, engendered by the militant stand of the Crown and the Colonies" the Society agreed to lessen its revelry and in accordance, in September, 1773, stewards were ordered to serve no liquor until "business was begun."

The churches, by now, had begun to understand the charity of the Society and on November 3, 1773, the German Congregation collected and donated to THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY the sum of ninety five pounds, twelve shillings and sixpence. Also 'on that date, John Rantowles, a charter member died.

Shortly thereafter, Edward Oats, the president left the Province, and John Troup was named to fill the post. It is not recorded why Oats left South Carolina but many, loyal to the Crown, and fearful of Revolution, were fleeing to the British West Indies.

John Troup continued as president in 1774 and during his administration, the first "plates" and certificates were engraved and printed in England and were distributed to the membership.

The year 1774 is significant in at least two respects: (1) The Great Seal of the Society was adopted. (2) The first son of a president was admitted to the society.

Scarcely less important is a ringing address made by President Troup in behalf of freedom."

In rule Thirty Eight, it was set forth that the SocIety shall have a common seal, on which shall be represented a female with three children in adversity with this motto, Viz: "Posteri Mea dona laudabunt", (which translated means, Posterity will commend my benefactions), which shall be kept by the secretary for the use of the Society; and every member on his admission, shall take out a Certificate under the hands of the President and Secretary, to be delivered without cost with the seal affixed " on the prescribed form.

The painting of the Great Seal was accomplished .by an unrecorded artist. It depicts a woman nursing an infant while she teaches a child with a book. The third child is kneeling in prayer at her knee. The original of the seal hangs in a place of honor in the Hall.

The day of March 9, 1774, was memorable. For on that day, with the full approval, even the acclamation of the membership, Robert Weyman, son of the founding father and pastor president, was voted to membership, the first son of a member to be so taken-in.

Little of nothing is mentioned of the son after this occasion but it is known that he died early in life, either a victim of the War for Freedom or a victim of the dread diseases that wracked the beleaguered city in the ensuing years.

Thomas Grimball Jr., was elected president on March 8 1775 a fateful year that followed Lexington, Concord and the actual beginning of the Revolution. Loyalists and Revolutionaries were at each others throat in Charlestown. On April 21st, Edward Weyman and his "Secret Committee of Five", assisted by some of the most eminent citizens, entered magazines located on "The Neck (Charlestown Peninsular) and Hobcaw and stole arms from the Commons House of the Assembly.

Lieutenant Governor William Bull, that "very beloved gentleman", blandly told the Commons House of the Assembly of the "very alarming and extraordinary" disappearance of 800 guns, 200 cutlasses and 1,600 pounds of powder, along with minor other stores. He knew full-well they had gone to the patriots.

News of the Battle of Lexington had reached Charlestown on May 8th and on June 18th, the new British governor, Lord William Campbell, landed in Charlestown to be met with silence if not hostility by most of the citizens, including the members of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

Conditions worsened as loyalists and British sought aid from the Cherokee Indians against the "White English" of the colony and the Up country threatened Civil War. By November, 1775, shots were being exchanged in Charlestown Harbor. Bunker Hill had cheered the patriots, and Provincial Congress with John Rutledge, as president, had been formed.

On November 8th of that year, the time had become so troubled, that the Society ordered a strong box so that the records of the Society could be preserved in case of necessity.

Three weeks later, it appeared that the goal for which the Society had been formed could be reached - that of a hospital, for the Provincial Congress of South Carolina had decided to erect such an institution. Edward Weyman, probably with his life ambition in mind, moved that:

"In these troubled times, the Society offer its lots (at Hampstead) for a hospital proposed by the Provincial Congress." At that meeting on November 29th, it was also agreed that a place of safety other than Mrs. Poinsett's (who succeeded her husband in the place following his death) be considered.

A committee to offer the lots to the Provincial Congress, was formed. This committee, known as "The Memorial Committee," reported back at the following meeting:

"To the Honorable Council of Safety of the Colony of South Carolina:
The Memorial Committee of the Fellowship Society in the said Colony:

"Showith:

"That whereas the said Society are possessed of the convenient piece of land at Hampstead, whereon they intend to erect a hospital for the sick and indigent, agreeable to their original constitution and rules; and being informed that the Provincial Congress of the said Colony have resolved to provide a hospital for the Public Service' your memorialist hereby beg leave to offer the use of said land during these present unhappy times if it shall seem expedient to them to make use of same. (Signed Thomas Grimball Jr.)"

Because the Revolution was now a reality, the building of the hospital never came to pass but events in Charlestown moved swiftly toward glory and tragedy. The British, considering Charlestown the "Fountain head from which all violence flows", decided to crush the colony.

On February 6, 1776, South Carolina declared herself independent of Britain, and John Rutledge was elected president of The Colony of South Carolina on the 11th of April; and THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, on April 17, 1776, held an extraordinary meeting to prepare an address to "John Rutledge, President and Commander-In-Chief of the Colony of South Carolina" which was worded thusly:

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

"We, the President, Wardens and Members of the Incorporate Fellowship Society, animated by warmest principles and affection to our country and actuated by an ardent zeal for its posterity, beg leave to present to Your Excellency, our sincere congratulations on your advancement to the supreme command of the Colony and a station more honorable, as it has been conferred by a free and unbiased people, and the more arduous, as you have been called forth by the voice of your native country to exert your abilities at a crisis when her distress could only be alleviated by a person of your distinguished merit.

"We are truly sensible that your excellencies deportment in your important station, will fully correspond with the most sanguine expectations of the public and it is with confidence that we look up to Your Excellency as our patron and protection while we endeavor to execute those laudable purposes for which this Society, so extensive and different in its plans, was originally instituted.

"That this Colony may be relieved from its present distress and flourish under your suspicious governing; that your administration may be uninterrupted by the enemies of freedom and be rendered easy and comfortable to yourself, shall be our earnest prayer."

The next day, the membership, the communication signed by Samuel Prileau, senior warden, in the absence of the president, Isaac Huger, who was away in the "Back Country" attempting to solidify that area in the struggle for independence, delivered the document to President Rutledge.

Rutledge immediately replied:

"Gentlemen:

"I received with singular satisfaction, the testimony of your great regard.

"A society, whose characteristics are benevolence and philanthropy are entitled to the peculiar patronage' and protection of those in power. You may therefore, depend on mine as long as I have influence and authority."

By June 28, 1776, the Battle of Fort Moultrie was shaping up with British landing on Long Island (Isle of Palms) and Sir Peter Parker's fleet bound to attack Fort Moultrie commanded by Col. William Moultrie

Wharves and warehouses along East Bay Street had been leveled to allow the American guns clear play at the harbor. Mrs. Poinsett informed the Society she "could not serve the Society because in these times of calamity" she was moving to the country.

The Poinsett family, it might be mentioned here, was the family that gave the nation that great statesman, Joel Robert Poinsett. It was this Poinsett that later introduced the flower that is still known by his name, "The Poinsettia".

The tavern was believed to have been located at the intersection of Church and Elliott Streets, and it was to be destroyed in the Great Fire of 1788 which leveled much of that section of the city.

Great sufferings were now visited on the city in the form of hunger, illness and the dreadful fear of approaching British armies.

The Society's members began to fall in battle. Lieutenant Benjamin Wilkins fell to British bullets while defending Beaufort and Major Motte and Lieutenant John Bush died before Savannah. Josiah Alston, a revered member of the Society died in an epidemic on October 13, 1776.

But THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY'S indomitable will to survive as an organization was manifest in successful efforts to keep a quorum at the meetings in spite of the trying times.

Its patriotic faith was revealed in January 1777, when it dipped into its coffers to loan the State of South Carolina, one thousand pounds.

With Samuel Prileau as president, having been elected on Annual Day, March 12, 1777, the Society eked out that miserable year but ever greater hardships were in store in 1778.

The year was only 15 days old when the Great Fire of 1778 swept the section of Charlestown, burning Poinsett's Tavern.

By misfortune, the Society's secretary, Alexander Alexander, had left the precious rough minute book in the tavern and it was consumed by flames. However, the book was not a total loss for the membership carefully recalled the meetings it covered and most agreed that a new rough minute book was accurate enough for transcribing into the permanent minute book.

After the fire had left its desolation, many of the families of Charlestown were in dire need of shelter and warmth in an exceptionally cold winter. Member John Bush, a country member offered 50 loads of firewood from his plantation to ease the suffering of the people.

A. William Wakefield, possessor of a sloop, offered to sail the wood to Charlestown but his sloop proved too large to negotiate the creeks to the plantation. The wood was laboriously hauled to Charlestown in wagons and distributed by the Society.

It was a saddened membership that on March 11, 1778, named Daniel Cannon president and prayed for protection from the encroaching enemy. But the situation worsened as indicated by the request of Samuel Legare, treasurer, who asked to resign so that he could "go on an expedition against the enemy on the 20th of January 1779."

The annual meeting that year was without the sermon and anthem since the day before had been decreed a "day of fasting an prayer".

Then Charlestown fell, a captive of the British, and a Royal commander ruled the city with an iron hand. Many of the loyal members were sent to jails in Florida or aboard prison ships in the harbor.

Here almost a two' year-gap appears in the Society's minutes, (These were later to be filled in from memory) and it was not until April 4, 1781, that an entry or record made. On that date, the Society awaited on the British commander of the city and requested to meet "as usual to carry on the laudable intentions of the institution".

The commandant waited until the day before Annual Day to "Cheerfully" give permission to hold the meeting, but because there had been no time to advertise the meeting, few were present and the annual election of officers was postponed.

By July 4, 1781, only three persons were attending the meetings and president Troup begged others to attend "because of business concerning the very life of the Society". Because of his plea, 32 members attended the following meeting on July 11, and they were asked by President Troup if they "meant to keep up the Society". All answered "yes".

In spite of the trials, the Society existed under the occupation and even managed to obtain assurance from General Leslie, the military governor, that their lands at

Hampstead would be respected.

The Society, in great rejoicing and under the leadership of President John Lynah, saw the British capitulate and sail away at the end of 1782.

Gradually the Society, along with the City of Charlestown and the State of South Carolina, emerged from the horrors of the long and costly war and in February, 1783, the Society petitioned Governor Benjamin Guerard to repossess their Hampstead lands.

The Governor, who had long been a friend of the Society, also received the Society's congratulations on being elected to his high post, referred the matter to General Greene, the hero of Eutaw Springs and the liberation of Charlestown, was sympathetic but he said, he must determine the value of the fortifications built by the British on the land before the lands could be returned to the Society.

The Society was the Governor's guest at a dinner, but it was not until September 17, 1783, that the Hampstead lands were returned to the trusteeship of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

The revolution was over and the fledgling United States under Presidents Dr. Tucker Harris (1784) Daniel Cannon (1785), Richard Lushington (1786) Hugh Swinton (1787), Thomas Cochran (1788), and Dr. Richard Savage (1789) continued to prosper in membership and finances.

The following year, the presidency returned to the founder, Edward Weyman, and he was re-elected the following year. All the while, the widows of fallen members and those who died of disease or infirmities continued to benefit from the bounty of the Society.

Typical of these cases is that of the child of "The late Charles Womack" who' was indentured by the Society to Robert Austin at Twenty pounds a year. Austin was to feed, cloth and educate the child until he was 12 years.

The minutes of the Society from 1800 until 1812 were sparse except to detail the growth of the Society's wealth, to record cases of charity, to record new members and those read out, and to list the deaths of members, elections and annual sermons.

On May 21, 1791, President George Washington visited Charlestown and great was the rejoicing in the old City. The city was thronged for days before the great general's carriage from the North was sighted by the outposts.

The Society's members were among those invited to the balls, the concerts and the public functions during the President's three-day visit.

And for the first time, the Society, as a unit, marched in a parade for distinguished visitor. This was a function they were happy to do for many other such visitors, including the Marquis de Lafayette some 30 years later.

For the next several years meetings were routine. The rolls so confused after the Revolution had been straightened out. Country members and regular members were separated and the gaps in the missing minutes had been filled when on January 6, 1793, the Society sorrowfully attended on Edward Weyman, whose death in the sixty-third year of his life occurred.

Peter Bounetheau, president, lead the eulogies as they laid him to rest in St. Philip's Churchyard. Many other eulogies by the leading citizens followed.

The minutes of the Society from then until the War of 1812 are complete but the work of the Society was routine. The minutes are filled with records of new members, old members "read out", of deaths, of charities and of donations.

William H. Gibbes served as president for five years, from 1801 through 1805, followed by Thomas Hinds in 1806 and 1807, then Robert Howard for the next three years until 1811.

Colonel Charles John Steedman, a man who was to become the Society's greatest hero and a martyr to courage and selflessness, took over the president's chair and in a most propitious time for the clouds of another war hung heavily over the youthful nation.

The members of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, many of them veterans of the Revolution, threw themselves into the new conflict. Knowing well the tribulations of the Revolution, they quickly offered themselves in various capacities.

Those too old to fight, sent their servants to build the fortifications they felt sure would be needed to once again defend their sacred city. Those members who were of the proper age, donned uniforms and marched to the bastions and battlements.

But the War of 1812 did not scar Charlestown and once again the Society returned to normal, continuing to do its good work.

It was about this time that the Society's emphasis shifted from charity to education and the number of young boys and girls sent to schools began to increase. This was particularly true of children of members who had fallen on bad times.

There were the usual charity calls from natural disasters such as storms and fires, but the fellowship of the Society for each other began to increase and the Wednesday night affairs at the Merchant's Hotel were popular with the members.

The annual meetings were highlights of the spring season and were well attended, the speakers masterful orators and their guests distinguished.

A Golden era had arrived for "THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY".

Long before the Second War with Great Britain, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY had embarked on its plan for the education of the poor and indigent children of the area.

James M. Ward, chairman of the school committee reported that the Society could educate 30 - 35 children and could afford \$8.00 a quarter for each child's stationary, books, etc. The Society recommended on March 8th, an annual meeting, that ten more be added to set up a program through which the children would be selected. Other than Member Ward, the committee consisted of John Robinson Edward Mortimer, Stephen Westmore, William Wick and Roger Heriot.

The first children selected for the school (unfortunately the minutes do not say where it was located but presumably on the Society's lands at Wentworth and Meeting Streets) were Alexander S (T)eresuer, 9; Mary Postell, 8; Jane G. Loumores, 8; and William Bosman, 8. At this meeting also, Langdon Cheves, one of the most influential men in Charlestown, was elected a member.

The school grew in popularity in spite of the war. The directors inaugurated the giving of "prize books" to exceptional students at a meeting at The Carolina Coffee House at the Intersection of Bedon's Alley and Elliott Streets.

With the war a thing of the past, the Society moved its meeting place to the James Tavern in Bedon's Alley where on October 6, 1813, the proprietor offered to cater to the annual dinner with a "First Rate Dinner". There was to be no charge for bread and cheese before dinner but there would be a regular charge for porter, wines and bitters or punch.

The best of spirits would be dispensed for seventy-five cents a pint of that wine, brought by members, would be charged for at the rate of twenty-five cents for each cork drawn.

By 1814, the Society had selected John E. You as headmaster of the school and he told the Society that instead of 35 children, he would educate 100 at the same remuneration if the

Society would provide the facilities. The School Committee reported back to the Society: "How great the advantage, how small the cost, \$150.00 for a shed."

School Master, You, was unanimously re-elected at the annual meeting of March 9, 1814, and it was proposed that a school building be erected on the Society's property at Meeting and Wentworth Streets.

In the same meeting Mrs. Eliza Weyman, the widow of Edward Weyman, Jr., prayed for relief which was accorded her in the amount of \$100.00 immediately and a yearly sum not disclosed thereafter.

By 1817, the Society, as was the entire country, caught in a depression and the committee on accounts recommended austerity measures. There would be no dinners for indigent children with a savings of \$60.00 per annum; no advertising, a savings of \$50.00. and no wines or bitters at the meetings, a savings of \$50.00.

Memberships would be raised to \$12.00 for city and \$10.00 for country members. The Society then had \$53,458.71 in its treasury and was afraid that it would be lost in the depression.

The Society agreed that only children of its members could be educated at this time and fortunately, at the same time, the State of South Carolina, in November 1817, began the first Free School system.

However THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, maintained its own school and in 1824, the school committee, of which Col. Steedman was a member and John S. Richardson was chairman, was "pleased to report that the scholars were making excellent progress".

The committee reported that they "Could not refrain from noticing the advancement made by some of them. Among these are John Russell, Edmund Brown and Sidney Livingston. These have been taught Reading, Orthography, Syntax, Arithmetic (Decimal and Vulgar Fractions) and the Elementary parts of Algebra and Bookkeeping".

The committee said also that to those names may be added the names of Mary Leefe, Susan Vardell, Emily Smith, Louise Leefe, Julius Petsch, Edwin Prince, Stephen Thomas and E. Forгатie.

But with the coming of the Free Schools of the State of South Carolina, the Society saw no need to build its own school and Mr. You subsequently resigned from the Society's employ to teach in Free School NO.2.

THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY even then did not nor has it since, lost its interest in the education of deserving youth and Its many contributions to institutions of learning continued.

The United States and THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY recovered from the depression and began to prosper. The society's members in 1824 were participants in the gigantic parade in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette on his return to South Carolina, the state in which he had first landed to aid the American colonies in the revolution and Joseph Bennett, the Society's president, was a guest of honor at the banquet for the distinguished visitor.

Typical of the Society's influence in the community as the first quarter of the 19th century ended and the second began was the following letter from a mother requesting her daughter be placed on the organization's educational bounty:

Dated November 28, 1828, and addressed to the President, Wardens, and Members of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, the letter (the original of which is in the Society's archives) said:

"You will greatly oblige me by placing my daughter Eleanor, aged 9 years, on your school bounty as it is entirely out of my power to. put her to school and, being greatly pleased

with the improvement my other two children have made since they have been with Mr. You, I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your obedient servant- Catherine Gilbert."

Colonel Charles J. Steedman, in that same year, was re-elected president of the Society and was to occupy that exalted position for the next ten years, longer than any other man until his untimely death April 28, 1828.

This death was, perhaps, the most tragic and lamentable in the Society's long history. Many great men have passed through the Society's membership roles, many died tragically and many heroically in battle and storm, but to none, other than the founder, has a monument more profoundly been erected.

On the night of April 27, 1838, a fire suddenly erupted in an area east of Meeting Street near Anson and Wentworth Streets and burned on a strong southwesterly wind, soon had much of that section in flames.

To arrest the fire from consuming the entire city, it was found on the morning of April 28th, that a fire land had to be cleared by blowing up buildings.

At mid-morning, Colonel Steedman was charged with destroying buildings at East Bay and Hasell Streets. A thick wall of smoke, broken only by billowing flames as the conflagration roared toward the waterfront, lay over the city and the harbor. Vessels had been moved from docks and lay in mid-stream.

Colonel Steedman, as brave a soldier as ever set foot in battle and a leader of the firefighters and his negro servant, advanced toward the building with a keg of powder which he placed beneath the structure. Suddenly, ignited either by a flying brand or from a faulty fuse, the keg exploded prematurely.

The President of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY was killed, as was his slave, either by the explosion itself, or the collapsing building. Two others died that morning in another premature explosion.

Colonel Steedman was born in Charlestown, November 9, 1783, just as the city was coming from under the British yoke and received "A good education at Charlestown College under the Rev. Dr. Buist".

He was brought up to be a cooper but married early and set up as a planter at St. James Santee and was elected a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. This body, on December 7, 1807-, elected him sheriff of the Charlestown District, at that time a highly paid job and one which caused much political competition for the office.

He was elected president of the Planters and Merchants Bank, May 8, 1811. He held this position for some time and returned to the then, pleasant position of a gentleman planter. But his ability was not to go wasted and he was returned to the Legislature by his neighbors.

In this capacity, he held the important chairmanship of the House Way and Means Committee.

He became a Colonel when, during the War of 1812, he was appointed Wagon Master General of the State Militia by Governor Alston. He was also connected with the State Militia as an officer of the Ancient Battalion of Artillery.

Colonel Steedman was sent in 1820 by Governor Bennett as an agent of the state to obtain from authorities in Washington an adjustment and settlement of claims of the state against the Federal Government for advances and expenditures expended in the war with Great Britain.

But as so many men in public life, he was soon in "embarrassed circumstances" and returned to Charlestown where he went to work for the City Gazette as part owner and commercial and business editor.

Soon thereafter, he was elected by popular vote to the post of sheriff again and discharged his duties "wisely and humanely". He held this post until 1832 at which time President Andrew Jackson named him to the station of Naval Officer of the Port of Charlestown, a highly responsible job in the customs House; a position, though poorly paid but the second in importance in the federal list of offices in the city, he held until his untimely death.

His connection with THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY began June 13, 1808, when he became a member. Though a member only a short time, his talents were recognized and he was elevated to the post of Junior Warden the next year and the next.

His zeal in behalf of the Society was so pronounced that an Anniversary Day in March 1811, he became the first person to overleap the post of Senior Warden and was named president for the first two terms,

He was recalled as president in March 1828, and gave his time and talents for the next 10 years. Scarcely a time in his name not inscribed in the minute books for he was punctilious in his attendance at meetings.

Even at his last breath, when the ruins of the building showered down on him after the premature explosion, he was heard to call from the wreckage and "was cheerfully answered". However, a second keg of powder was exploded when the would be rescuers dug through the rubble to his body, it was "horribly mangled and disfigured and the vital spark was utterly extinct".

The Charlestown Courier of the next day wrote of him:

"Thus while yet in manly prime and usefulness, did he perish, illustrating in his death that practical philanthropy which was the distinguishing trait of his character of life. The public authorities of the city and a numerous concourse of citizens, paid him the funeral honors due to his character and services and amid the tears of relatives and friends, and the warm gush of universal sympathy, his remains were deposited in St. Philips Cemetery."

Colonel Steedman was dead (as was his faithful Negro by his side), but the flames were stopped and Colonel Steedman was not forgotten. Two years later, a renovated and once again prosperous city, was to pay him tribute.

With money given him by the Society, but perhaps more important by the common and the aristocratic citizens of Charlestown, a monument to his gallantry, philanthropy and civic service was ordered struck from native marble. It was dedicated on Anniversary Day, 1840, amid the most eloquent orations and eulogies and with a great host attending at the site of Colonel Steedman's grave, where it stands to this day.

It is a quadrangular block of marble, on a square pedestal crowned with an obelisk, 12 feet high brown base to summit, and was executed by John White, Charlestown marble cutter.

On its eastern side, which faces old St. Philips Church, is emblazoned:

*To The Memory
of
COLONEL CHARLES JOHN STEEDMAN
who perished on the 28th of April, A.D., 1838
in the 56th year of his age;
A MARTYR IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY
during the awful conflagration of that morning and the
previous night which laid in ruins nearly a third
part of Charlestown, having met his death,*

*from the premature explosion of a keg of powder,
while engaged in preparations for blowing up a house
to arrest the progress of the flames.
He was born on the 9th of November 1783,
Became a member of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, June 15, 1808;
was elected president in March 1811 and
was re-elected for the succeeding year;
and was again chosen to that office in March 1828;
and held it to the time of his death.
He filled numerous offices of public trusts and, as a citizen,
was energetic and useful in both private and public station.
As a man, he was distinguished for social virtues,
kindly disposition and practical benevolence.
As president of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, he was marked by
urbanity and courtesy and faithful and zealous
administration of its affairs, and dispensation of its charities
to The Widow and Orphan.*

On the Western side is inscribed:

CHARLES JOHN STEADMAN

On the Northern side of the monument there is inscribed:

*This monument is erected by the
Members of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY,
and by
Citizens of Charlestown Neck
(among whom he resided)
in token of affection regard and memory of one
who nobly illustrated in his death
that desire to serve his fellow men
which was his distinguishing characteristic
in life.*

On the Southern side is engraved a copy of the vignette of seal of the Society and:

*"Posterī mea Dona Laudabunt"
SEVENTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY
March 11, 1840
Richard Yeadon, Jr., president;
Charles Kanapaus, senior warden;
Theodore Gaillard, junior warden;
Samuel Seyle, treasurer, and
Thomas Steedman, secretary.*

The president reported at the annual meeting following the dedication, that it was worth \$55,000 and that the income from its ninety members was between \$4,000 and \$5,000 annually. Members of seven years standing could enroll their Sons for a ten dollars entrance fee. For

others, the entrance fee was \$40.00. An annual contribution, exclusive of the anniversary dinner was charged.

Persons who had been members for seven years, were with their families, entitled to support if misfortune overtook them provided they had paid up their arrears.

The male seminary, because of the resignation of Mr. You and the lack of pupils had been suspended but the female seminary of Mrs. E. Murden and Daughters was employed to instruct the daughters of current and decreased members.

One fifth of the Society's income went to the education of children, one fifth to general expenses and three-fifths to charity, or rather to the pecuniary relief of indigent members, widows of members and orphans of members.

Through the 1840's, the Society's members watched and participated in the beginning of the chaotic struggle between the North and the South. Many were owners of slaves and it is safe to assume, were nullificationists and followers of that illustrious South Carolinian, John C. Calhoun.

And so the Society went its way, educating, donating to schools and charities while the fight between the South and the North was conceived. It waxed rich with its assets growing yearly. Country members made it a point to attend meetings.

Unfortunately, the minutes of this period, for the most part, are again cryptic and unrevealing except to say that certain persons were placed on the bounty of the Society, certain members were elected to membership and certain others "read off" for non-payment of arrears.

John C. Calhoun, a staunch advocate of the principal of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY died in 1850. When his body was returned to Charlestown from Washington aboard a black steamer, Richard Yeadon, president; C. Kanapaux, senior warden; John C. Norris, junior warden; Samuel Seyle, treasurer and James O'Neal and J. H. Seyle, stewards; led the Society to Adjer's Wharf where among much sorrowing the casket of the great defender of States Rights was taken ashore. With them was the entire membership except those who were ill or away from Charlestown.

In spite of dissension between the North and South, the political storms brewing, and almost as if to escape these things, the Society continued its collations, its charities and its internal fellowship.

The Annual Day of 1854 fell on Wednesday, March 8th.

Richard Yearndon, president; Samuel Seyle, treasurer; Richard S. Mammatt, secretary; attended. Some writings state that J. H. Seyle and Albert Elfe were stewards but the minutes of that meeting report that Messers Barbot and Patterson were the stewards.

The school committee was pleased to report that young Master Skinner Price had much improved since his last report and that he was prepared to enter Charleston College in the fall. Miss Price and Miss Seyle, his teachers, were very impressed with him and that he was deserving of the parental care of the Society. Other "Mopets" also had improved to such an extent that the Society voted twenty dollars for prizes for the students. C. E. Kanapaux headed the school committee and personally recommended that the Society give all aid necessary that Master Price could pursue his college education.

For some unrecorded reason, the Society's officers for the year were not elected until the following meeting on March 15th at which time Mr. Yearndon was re-elected; C. M. Furman was named senior warden; W. H. Houston, junior warden; R. S. Hammett, secretary; and Messers Seyle and J. F. Church, stewards.

At this time the State of South Carolina was still suffering the loss of Calhoun, and a committee was organized to erect to him an heroic monument on the Citadel Green. All Societies, both charitable, military, religious and otherwise had been asked to contribute a block of granite native to South Carolina be donated to this stature.

Accordingly, on March 29, 1854, the Society moved that it contribute such to "The faithful and fearless champion of Southern Rights, the cherished favorite of South Carolina, mourned alike by his mother state and his nation". Calhoun lay in the same cemetery as Presidents Weyman and Steedman.

It was found that such a stone could be purchased for four dollars per square foot, with each engraved letter costing twenty-five cents. The stature, with the Society's seal, was unanimously ordered.

Early in October, 1854, James C. Norris, ex-junior warden for 10 years (1843 to 1853) died, and for the first time, a page of the minute books on October 25th of that year was left blank except for the inscription "To The Memory Of James C. Norris".

Tension continued to mount in the nation over State's Rights but nowhere as it did in Charlestown, the city that had been the first to declare its independence from Great Britain, that had won the first major battle of the Revolution and where freedom and patriotism had always been rampant.

But as tension mounted, so did the Society's well-being. On Anniversary Day, March 14, 1885, the treasurer was pleased to report that the Society's wealth had mounted to \$75,386.67.

The touch of sadness that day was the announcement of the death of John W. Nelms, a respected member to whose memory a blank page in the minute book was dedicated.

Patriotic speeches once again rang in the Fellowship Halls and these served to enhance the annual dinner at which "segars", whiskeys, ale, porter and bitters were an important part of the meal. It is recorded that for a four-month period, not including the annual dinner, segars cost the Society \$251.00; whiskey, \$47.75 (here it must be remembered that 10 gallons of imported Scotch whiskey cost only \$27.50) ale and porter, \$38.50 and bitters, fifty cents. Sugar cost an additional \$16.00.

The Society's patriotism was dramatically illustrated the next year when its president was sent North and travelled extensively in that hostile area. Unfortunately it is not recorded who or what agency sent him on his trip but it is possible that he did so for business reasons.

President Yeadon returned to Charlestown and on October 22nd, the Society turned out to honor their president. His entry into the city on "The Cars" was triumphal and the membership, their banner flying met him at the railroad train. He was escorted in pomp to the Society's room in the Masonic Hall on his "return from the North where he defended the institutions of the South".

He was eulogized by Reverend John Honour outstanding speaker of the Society and was also lionized by other societies before whom he appeared to tell of his experiences.

The trend of the times could not but have made Yeadon and his fellow members anxious for the future. But the trend could not make them afraid of the gathering storm.

The Society began to invest heavily in bonds of the State of South Carolina, demonstrating their faith in the future of the State and City. They leaned more heavily to educational bounties and stressed the teachings of history, especially that of the state and city.

Throughout 1857 and well into 1858, the Society increased its membership to such an extent that more than 100 were attending meetings at times.

But the Society was not without its troubles, minor though they were. On January 20, 1858, member John A. Baum was expelled when he was convicted by a criminal court of forgery.

But later that year, on March 31st, the Society made a move that until this day has brought it respect and the thanks of the people. Under way were state plans to establish a normal school for the education of girls. A high school for boys was already in existence.

C. G. Memminger was chairman of the school board and his special interest was in the school for girls. This is attested to by the fact that many years Memminger High School commemorated his name and the devotion he gave to his interest in the welfare of children.

The Society appointed a committee of five, headed by President Yeadon to consider and recommend that THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY make a "handsome donation" to the public schools and for three weeks, this committee studied the situation.

At the end of this time, they reported back to the membership that they highly recommended that the Society donate \$3,000 to this worthy cause, stressing the need to instruct girls so that they would in turn become teachers.

Their recommendation was laid over for several weeks while the membership considered it. Meanwhile, it was necessary to determine if the School Board could legally accept the donation.

On May 8th the Society received excerpts from the School Board's minutes of the meeting which showed that the board gladly accepted, and that children of members alive and deceased, would be shown special consideration as to costs, nominal though they were.

Throughout the years since, the Society has maintained its charity toward schools, though since these schools have been tax supported, its donations have tapered off. It was from this \$3,000 gift that the Society, 20 years later, was moved to donate to Memminger School the oil painting of its first president, Edward Weyman. The painting, as noted earlier, is identical with that which hangs in the Society's hall.

The painting, given with the stipulation that it be returned to the Society should theirs be lost or destroyed, still hangs in the Memminger High School Memorial Room established after the original girls' school was razed.

The Society's minutes deal almost entirely of happenings within, the Society and scarcely touches on the world outside unless it directly affects the organization. But there was a notable event on June 28 1858

On that date the Society voted to attend the laying of the cornerstone of the John C. Calhoun Monument that still stands in Marion Square.

Accordingly, the following Monday, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, en mass, with their banner flying In what is recorded as a warm and beautiful June afternoon was among the lengthy parade composed of military and civic groups to participate in this memorial to the "Great Nullifier".

Nothing in the minutes refer to the fact that the gathering war clouds had grown darker in the years of 1859 and 1860 but they were. On Annual Day 1861, just a month and six days before the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the treasurer reported that the Society was worth \$78,535.79.

South Carolina had become the first state of the Union to secede the preceding December 20th. Charleston had been the scene of the wild Democratic convention of July 11, 1860 and, though it is not recorded, it is sure that Richard Yeadon, fiery Southerner that he was, participated in that event. The Society cheered the Citadel Cadets who opened fire on the Star of the West on January 9, 1861.

Uniforms adorned the male population, and General G. P. T. Beauregard was in command of the city's defenses. The Society took to its defenses and once again laid plans to remove its valuable records to a place of safety should war erupt as it most certainly must.

And it did with the thunderous roar at 4 a. m. April 12, 1861, as Major Adams opened fire from Fort Johnson. A new, dark era, more disastrous than ever before, was to beset the Society and the South. Before it was past, the war and the relentless days of the Reconstruction, the Society was to fight, not only for its physical goods, but once again for its very existence.

It was to lose many of its members by death and some far less gloriously.

Perhaps the most lamentable of these was Charles J. Steedman, son of the president who had died so valiantly in Great Fire of 1838. Some members must have mused that it would have been better if he had followed his father in another great fire that destroyed much of the city four years before in 1857.

Little is known of John Charles Steedman, the younger, prior to his "to the Society's treacherous action", except that he had been a member of the State Legislature.

This resolution, adopted June 19, 1861, appears in the minute book for that year:

"Whereas Charles Steedman, a member of the Society, holds a commission in the Ex-United States, with whom this Confederacy is at war, and according to satisfactory information furnished the Society, is now actively engaged in the cause of our enemies, therefore.

"Resolved, that the name of Charles J. Steedman be stricken from the roll as unworthy of membership".

The president ruled that the resolution could not be acted upon because the 25th Rule requires that the member must be notified. The Society appealed from this decision of the president, but the motion was laid over and messages were dispatched to Steedman.

Jumping ahead temporarily, we find that on January 25, 1862, the only page to "infamy" is recorded in the minute books in the Society's 200 years.

THE FOLLOWING PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION OFFERED BY THE PRESIDENT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED:

"WHEREAS: Whereas Charles Steedman, a lieutenant commander in the United States Navy, is a native of South Carolina, and descended on both father's and mother's side from a South Carolinian Ancestry, and Whereas he commanded the United States war vessel during the bombardment of our forts at Port Royal and raised a hostile and patricidal arm against his Mother State thus proving himself false to honor, patriotism and instincts of nature, and:

"WHEREAS, he was for a long time past, and until his name was stricken from the rolls on July 17th last for adherence to the enemy, a member of this Society over which his worthy and esteemed father (who fell and died a martyr to the cause of humanity) presided for many years, of which his elder brother was secretary for a still longer period, and from which many of his kindred have derived relief, and therefore his name should therefore be stigmatized with more than ordinary ignominy.

"BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, THAT Charles Steedman, be forever expelled from THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, and denied readmission to the same, as a traitor alike to the ties of Country, Nature and Society.

"RESOLVED:

"That the foregoing preamble and resolution be enclosed in black lines on a page of the Society's journal well in "perpetuum rei Memoriam" as that our posterity may learn the just and fitting reward meted out by their ancestry to the traitor and patricide".

The Society, as was the entire city and for that matter the South, was to suffer more than the ravages of war and the first year, the 99th for the Society, was to be one of the worse.

There are many gaps in the minutes during the war, and only by telling some of the story of Charleston can the history of the Society be continued.

On the night of December 11, 1861, a fire broke out in a sash-and-door factory near the foot of Hasell Street. High winds blowing from the north-north east, the flames spread rapidly to nearby buildings and it was soon completely out of control.

When it had burned out, a path extending from the foot of Hasell Street on the north, to Tradd Street on the south and from the Cooper River to the Ashley River had been laid waste.

Among the public buildings destroyed were the St. Andrew's Hall, Circular Congregation Church, St. Finbar's Cathedral, and St. Peter's Church.

So, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY approached its 100th anniversary in nothing like a festive mood and with little desire to celebrate. The president, Richard Yeadon, was persuaded to sit for his portrait early in 1862.

The minutes of the Society show on that day that the treasurer showed the worth of the Society at \$83,497.78 but he said:

"In view of these times, no actual value can be presented as much of the assets have been invested in Confederate taxes, bonds and other ways".

The "esteemed president" was the orator on the occasion and delivered a "most interesting address". It was resolved that funds be made available to frame the portrait. At the business meeting, Mr. Yeadon was re-elected president. Other officers elected included Charles M. Furman, senior warden; William H. Houston, junior warden; John N. Honour, treasurer; James M. Duffes, secretary; and John H. Seyle and William M. Gruver, stewards.

President Yeadon's portrait was hung with appropriate ceremonies in April, 1862, with Colonel F. I. Moses making the dedication. The portrait was painted by John Slomen and is still hanging in Society's rooms.

Evidence of the times is in a letter written the Society by a member who stated that he could not pay his arrears on April 9, 1862, because he could sell no cotton, not having bagging in which to bale the fiber. The Society then decided not to read any member out for non-payment, provided he would give his interest bearing bond or note to be redeemed when the war was over.

The Society, late in 1862 again demonstrated its confidence in the South and its cause by purchasing some \$21,000 in Confederate State Stocks.

For the first time in many years, the Society deserted its regular rooms in the Masonic Temple at Wentworth and King Streets and decided to hold its Annual Day dinner in the Hibernian Hall, "provided the rent was not more than \$50" on March 11, 1862.

The treasurer reported that the Society's wealth (though mostly in Confederate money) had risen to \$89,653.99. It being the 101st anniversary, Mr. Yeadon's Portrait was hung in fitting style and that gentlemen was again re-elected president.

All other officers were re-elected except the stewards, posts to which William E. Honour and A. S. Smith were named.

Mrs. You, the wife of the Society's first school master died in October, 1863, and the Society paid for her funeral.

By this time, Union forces were making it a nightmare in downtown Charleston. Throughout the day and into the night the city was bombarded by the "Swamp Angel", a huge cannon placed in the marshes adjacent Morris Island and by other guns on James Island.

Many of the fine old homes in the lower section of the city were damaged or destroyed. That section of the city was devastated and deserted by the citizens since it was hazardous even to walk in the area.

The Federal Armies advanced closer (Morris Island had fallen) and as the tenor of the bombardment, that was not to cease until February 18, 1865,- a period of 185 days; increased the Society, as it had done in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, became alarmed over the safety of documents.

Fires were a constant menace and fire fighting equipment almost non-existent. Most of the young men and many of the old had marched off to war and so during the bleak Christmas period of 1863, the Society packed up its treasured books, portraits, mace, gavel, and other items and sent them to Kalmia. (So far this writer has been unable to determine where Kalmia was located but presumably the country place of a member was so named).

The 102nd anniversary day fell on March 12, 1864, but by this time, the bombardment had endangered both the Hibernian Hall on Meeting Street and the Masonic Temple, and the Society cast about for a meeting place. It was decided to hold the meeting at the residence of Member Edward Forgatis at the Northeast corner of Rutledge and Mill Streets.

No quorums attended in the Christmas season that year and the minutes of the Society drops off sharply through the balance of 1864.

Then, on a dark day, February 18, 1865, the city was once again occupied by an enemy force; as Federal Troops moved in the Confederates evacuated. From that day until the end of war, "meetings were held at somewhat irregular intervals at Mr. Fogerties on Calhoun Street, but seldom was there a quorum since the large majority of the membership was in the military service".

It was not until September 6, 1865, that minutes were again regularly kept. At this time, the city was a beaten city but at least not militarily occupied as during the war.

John M. Honour, the secretary, attempted to recapture the lost records and at a meeting, September 27, 1865, inserted the following memorandum in the books:

"On the 21st of August, 1863, the U. S. Forces on Morris Island began shelling the city of Charleston. THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, however, continued to meet at the Masonic Hall at King and Wentworth Streets until the 24th of February, 1864, when, as a prudential measure, the place of the meeting was changed to Mr. Edward Fogertie's place in Calhoun Street at which place the Society met at somewhat irregular intervals for want of quorums, the large majority of the members being absent, being engaged in the military service.

"When the U. S. Forces took possession (of the city), which was February 18, 1864, the meetings were suspended, it being considered imprudent under the existing state of affairs. and the abeyance until the restoration of law and order when the Society was called together by a notice through the newspapers and the regular meetings of the Society were resumed on September 6th, 1865."

Many of the members were never to meet again, having fallen victim to the shot and shell of the enemy, died in prison camps or from the great plagues that swept the city during the war.

One of these, Robert R. Bee, the Society learned, had died in Sumter, having been killed by Negro soldiers in Sumter while resisting "an assault on the females of his family".

Captain Duffes, the Society learned on November 22, had been killed June 17th, 1865," in the trenches before Petersburg (Va.) while gallantly fighting the battles of his country".

On the day the Confederates evacuated the city, no less than four destructive fires ravaged the city. One began when the evacuating Confederates burned cotton and military stores

to keep them from the hands of the Federals in the western part of the city. A number of fine warehouses were destroyed.

Another burned several large residences in the vicinity of East Bay and Laurens Street and a third burned a number of buildings on the west side of Meeting Street near the Court house.

By far the most serious in regards to loss of life and property was that which sprung from the Northeastern Railroad Depot in Chapel Street. A large quantity of provisions had been left here for the Confederate troops.

A number of poor people had gathered here. Among the provisions was a large amount of gun powder rolled into paper cartridges. Some boys had been amusing themselves by throwing some of this powder on the fire burning in the yard.

A gust of wind apparently blew a spark into the cartridges and a terrific explosion rent the air. The depot was demolished, leaving a fierce fire burning in the ruins. This spread rapidly and soon a four-block area, extending to Calhoun Street was in ruins.

THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY and the people of Charleston were not without friends, even in the North. On June 6, 1867, the Society received a donation from Baltimore, Maryland, from a Louisa Huffman and a communication which said it was of "deep respect for a suffering and noble people".

Crippled itself financially, the Society was hard pressed to meet its obligations to the widows and orphans on its bounty in the years immediately after the war.

Chaos reigned in the city, money of the Confederacy was worthless, illness prevailed and much of Charleston lay in ruins from fire, shells and from desertions of the populace in the face of bombardments.

But, fortunately for the Society, its officers had invested wisely in stocks that were bound to, at some time be valuable again. The Society leaned heavily on stocks of railroads, banks, and municipal bonds and felt that as long as the United States was once more united, these had to increase in value.

Education like everything else had, of course been also disrupted but School Board Chairman Memminger remembering the generosity of the Society, told that organization on January 23, 1867, that its members' children and those on its bounty would not suffer for education, "in conformity with the resolution of the board" made at the time of the Society's gift to the schools.

Through those troubled years, Richard Yeadon guided the Society's destiny but it must have been a laborious task. Only \$50 could be apportioned for the annual banquet of March 11, 1868, the One Hundred and Sixth anniversary of its founding.

The Society heard the committee on accounts declare of the organizations paper wealth of \$101,125.09, at least \$76,300 was valueless and that of the remaining \$24,795.09 it could report that the probable "worth of the Society is \$11,091.47."

Yeadon was re-elected at the meeting along with Judge Charles H. Simonton, senior warden; Charles Buist, junior warden; the Reverend John H. Honour, treasurer; Campbell Douglas, secretary; and John H. Seyle and W. L. Daggett, stewards.

A man who was to be a valuable member applied for admittance at that meeting. He was George L. Buist, who was duly elected at the next meeting.

The Society stayed aloof from race riots that continued in the city during those "Reconstruction" years and met quietly as a more normal condition began to emerge.

That such was the case is borne out by the fact that at the annual meeting, March 10, 1869, the par-value of the Society-owned stocks was \$24,958.09 but the actual value had risen to \$17,010.62.

By the annual meeting, it was reported that the Society's holdings had now increased to \$20,125.34.

Richard Yeadon was re-elected president for his 32nd and last time, for exactly two months later, May 11, 1870, Richard Yeadon died.

Tributes to the patriot, the statesman, and the tireless worker for the lost cause of the South and for the principles for which THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY stood, poured in and many were the eulogies at his funeral.

A month later, Charles H. Swinton was named to succeed "but not to replace" the former president.

An interesting note is that reported to the Society on February 22, 1871, in which Tully's, apparently the Society's favorite caterer, offered to furnish a "meat Collation" for \$1 a sitting provided the Society furnish its own liquor at the 109th anniversary dinner to be held March 8th of that year.

Swinton was re-elected president along with other officers elected at the preceding anniversary dinner and in August of that year, the Society moved its meeting place to Archer's Hall in King Street. This was also known as the American Hotel but its exact location is not known.

Later that year, the Washington Rifle Club made its hall over Wilson's Grocery at 306 King Street available to the Society for \$10.00 a month, two dollars cheaper than that paid for Archer's Hall.

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Officials of the Society became concerned over the safety of the invaluable records of the Society, which had been returned from Kalmia, because of the frequent moving of meeting places, and sought a safe depository for them.

General James Connor, distinguished Charlestonian and president of the Hibernian Society, came to the rescue and donated a room in the Hibernian Hall as a depository for the Society's archives, banners, portraits, and other valuables.

A political revolution was sweeping Charleston and South Carolina as a whole. The occupation by Northern civil authorities denounced as "carpet baggers" was loosening its hold and General James Andreas Wagener was elected mayor. THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY'S entire membership waited on that distinguished citizen to congratulate him.

He in turn, told of his esteem for the Society and the good works that they had accomplished in a letter in November, 1871.

The Society now began seriously to consider obtaining a building of its own for its meeting place and on their 110th anniversary, started a fund with V. J. Tobias as chairman of the Fund Committee, for the construction of a "suitable hall". However, it was to be more than a quarter of a century before this dream was to be realized.

But the committee persisted and following the annual meeting in 1873, the Building Committee on July 9th, recommended the purchase of property owned by N. M. Porter on King Street. The recommendation was not approved.

Undaunted, the Committee, the following week, reported it was of the opinion that the Society should purchase a building on the east side of King Street, a door or two north of Market Street.

The gentlemen of the committee reported glowingly that it was a three-story edifice. The first floor contained a fine grocery and the second a hall, 100 feet in length with a side entrance. The third floor was also a hall, identical with the second.

The committee also suggested another location owned by Kerrison's & Leiding's on Hasell Street. However, nothing came of either suggestion.

Very little of the outstanding occurred in the middle of 1870's that were worthy of note in the minutes, but the group moved back to the Masonic Temple for its meetings and occasionally adjourned to the Hibernian Hall for annual affairs. V. J. Tobias succeeded Colonel Swinton and served as president until 1879 when William L. Daggett was named to the post.

During this period, the Society continued to grow in membership but a destitute South contributed little in the way of monetary gain. In 1879, (May 14), the members agreed to obtain portraits of the martyr Steedman and ex-presidents Swinton and Weyman.

Kelsey Steedman, grandson of the president who died in the fire of 1838, begged leave to assume the cost of his distinguished ancestor's likeness, and it was granted with the thanks of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

William M. Daggett succeeded Tobias as president in 1879 and held the position until anniversary day, 1881, at which time he was succeeded by W. L. Gayer. The Society that year was able to appropriate \$175 for the festivities.

At the 1871 meeting, THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY inaugurated the custom, which is still in use today, of obtaining a portrait of each retiring president and hanging it in the meeting rooms.

Still anxious to obtain a place of their own, the membership attended a special meeting called by President Daggett on May 8, 1882. Henry Buist recommended that the residence of B. A. Roderigues in Meeting Street be purchased by the Society.

Member Edmund Bull rose and said that the property, which was to be sold for taxes, should not be purchased and cast the gloomy prediction that the organization would "be bankrupt soon, anyway". Mr. Buist's resolution to purchase was defeated.

And it would seem that by the annual meeting, March 12, 1884, the Committee on Accounts report would prove him right. Those gloomy gentlemen reported that financially the Society was in a bad way.

They pointed out that the income for the coming year could not be more than \$1,171.17 of which ten percent of \$117.11 had to be put aside for investment. This left a balance of \$1,054.06 for use, of which half \$527.03 must be put aside for widows.

This left a corresponding \$527.03 for all expenses in the year for the Society and the Committee said from that amount must be subtracted Insurance on portraits \$6; secretary's salary, \$200; treasurer's commission, \$58.55; and Hall rent, \$157.50; - a total of \$402.05.

Also to be subtracted was \$50 for a funeral of a newly deceased member and \$50 for the anniversary lunch, leaving a slim balance of \$24.98. A committee was appointed to find ways and means out of the dilemma.

The Society in October, enthusiastically accepted an invitation from the Hebrew Congregation to attend the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sir Moses Montifoni and reported an excellent address by Barrett Cohen.

John H. Seyle, who had been a steward for many years, had risen to the presidency by 1885's anniversary day and H. L. P. Bolger, who retired as president in 1883, asked to be excused from sitting for his portrait, the only recorded incidence in which this happened.

The Reverend John Henry Honour died November 26, 1885, after having been a member for 50 years and the Society's treasurer for many years.

D. B. Gilliland was named president at the annual meeting, March 10, 1886, and held the presidency until 1890 at which time he was succeeded by Charles Kerrison, Jr., who was elected.

In the five years between 1885 and 1890, South Carolina which had just come out from under the Reconstruction period, thanks to Wade Hampton who put an end to that incredibly hard period from 1876 to 1885, was faced with a new political upheaval.

Benjamin Ryan Tillman was at the throttle of that engine that was to run the course of the state from the Piedmont to the Sea Islands and the battle was over agrarian reforms with Tillman, an opportunist on the side of the farmers or at least using the farmers for his own personal political gain.

The revolution must have affected the Society since many of its members were planters. The feud between the Northern Section of the State and the Southern Section - "The Upcountry and the Lowcountry", never extinguished but sometimes dormant, flared with new heat.

Tillman denounced as perjurers Lowcountry senators because they refused to go along with allowing the Piedmont to reapportion the House of Representatives on the basis of increased population in the Piedmont.

The Lowcountry was referred to sneeringly by many in the Piedmont as "The Broken-down aristocracy" and The Columbia State and The News and Courier locked in bitter VERBAL BATTLES

But if THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY took notice of this which it is certain they did with many of its members in politics as lawmakers or members of the Democratic Party, the minutes fail to show it.

John G. Chalk was named president in 1891 succeeding the then ailing Kerrison. Edward Perry was named senior warden; B. J. Mazyck, junior warden; Samuel E. Burges, secretary; John Know and J. E. Burgess, stewards.

The group continued to meet at the Masonic Temple and though no concrete action was taken, they frequently talked of a home of their own.

President Chalk and the same slate of officers were re-elected on Anniversary Day, March 9, 1892, but on March 8, 1893, the 131st anniversary of the Society's founding, Edward Perry was elevated to the Chair.

Also elected were B. J. Mazyck, senior warden; Joseph E. Burgess, junior warden; John Know, re-elected treasurer; Samuel E. Burgess, secretary; and T. J. Honour and W. T. Fleming, stewards.

The Society was soon to face again another of the great tragedies that were to strike Charleston. It is true that in 1884, a great hurricane had struck Charleston with heavy loss of life and property and the earthquake had done untold damage, but as tragic as these were, they were no comparison to the storm that as early as August 1, 1893, was being spawned far out in the South Atlantic.

Still known as "The Great Hurricane of 1893", the hurricane probably began as a bubble of hot air which soon began to gather moisture, to twist on itself, to gather whirling speed and then to move westward. Her rendezvous with Charleston, though unknown ashore, was to be August 27-28.

Two weeks before this storm came ashore in the dead of night, the coast had been buffeted with high winds and tides as another hurricane passed close off shore. After it had passed forecasters noticed with alarm that seas did not subside but continue to billow and roar against the beaches.

Birds deserted the beaches and Forecaster L. N. Jesunofsky, in his office at East Bay and Broad Street, noticed his fluctuating barometer.

On August 20, 1893, his fears were confirmed when the Washington Weather Bureau telegraphed that the British West Indies had reported a dangerous hurricane.

By August 25, the sun began to rise foul and thunderstorms rumbled and rain fell throughout the day and on August 26, a strong northeast wind blew all day beneath leaden skies. The weather worsened and the twin red flags with black centers denoting the presence of a hurricane flew from the Customs House.

The winds continued to rise and on August 27th were blowing gale force. Still the wind and sea grew in strength and by midnight, the leading edge of the hurricane was ashore. Winds of 120 miles an hour were recorded before anemometers were blown away.

Mr. Jesunofsky noted in his journal that it was 11 p.m., tides were five feet above normal and 10 feet over the Battery "All wharves and docks were covered and waves were dashing over rooftops on the Battery. Before the storm had passed the next morning, tides had risen to 12 feet over the Battery and there were high waves on top of these.

When the storm was over and in the days that followed as rescuers trudged the wrecked sea island and explored bays, the death toll stood at more than 1,000 souls between Beaufort and Charleston alone.

And also, Sea Island Cotton, perhaps the last profitable crop (until truck crops were introduced) of the Lowcountry planters, was gone forever.

It was a telling blow that wiped out many of the Society's members financially though there is no record that any member or his family lost his or their lives. Once again, Charleston began the painful task of rebuilding and the Society again shelved its dreams of a "home of our own".

Charles Kerrison, former president, died November 15, 1893.

It appears that the most unusual thing about the Anniversary Day of 1894 was that while President Perry and other officers were re-elected, Joseph E. Burgess and E. D. Smith tied for the position of junior warden, President Perry called for an immediate re-election at the same meeting, March 14th and Burgess was elected.

All the officers were re-elected at the 133rd Anniversary Day meeting held, as usual at the Masonic Temple on March 13, 1895.

It is not generally known but there was an auxiliary to THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY but little is now known of its operations or its ultimate fate. However, it was granted a state charter on May 28, 1896, as an eleemosynary organization.

Its incorporators were all members of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY and included the president, Edward Perry, B. G. Mazyck, James E. Burgess, John Knox, Samuel E. Burgess, Julian A. Barbot, W. G. Cleapor, W. F. Fleming, E. W. Gradick, Samuel J. Honour, B. D. Heweston, R. C. Merritt, James S. Mazyck, James R. Ownes, Jr., E. M. Reeder, Oswald Reeder, George D. Rouse, H. A. Wells, F. A. Dothage, David McMillan, William A. Fitch, H. W. Nichols and H. S. Brown.

The auxiliary existed some time before it was incorporated and was probably organized as an adjunct to the main society in order to take action not allowed in the rules of the main society or to take care of charity cases not allowed by the Society.

At any rate, it was soon appealing to the main body (in effect themselves) for aid and it was agreed by the main society that certain contingent funds, not to exceed \$100, be transferred from THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY to the Fellowship Society Auxiliary. This was in June 1896, and nowhere again is the auxiliary mentioned in the minutes of the main society.

THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY'S regular meeting notice was posted in The News and Courier on Monday, August 30, 1886, as usual, and the members read it while probably remarking "Well, this will be another hot and humid day".

For more than a week now, the putrid air had persisted with scarcely a breeze from the sea or land. Muggy nights made sleeping indoors intolerable and many persons in tenements and crowded apartments preferred the fire escapes or the open parks for slumber.

The membership did not know when it woke Tuesday morning, August 31, 1886, that the meeting scheduled for the next night was never to be held. They read with some interest a small item in the lower right hand of the front page of The News and Courier that day that small, but sharp earthquake shocks had been felt in Summerville again and indeed, a number had rocked the city itself in the past several months.

A so-called scientist, commenting on the Summerville shocks in the Courier article, explained that they were caused by a severe earthquake that had recently devastated much of Greece. He reasoned that the phosphate rock-bed underlying Summerville and the land between that summer resort and Charleston, had been disturbed by the waves of the Greek quake and were continuing to settle.

As the day wore on, the atmosphere took on a copperish hue and tempers, rubbed raw by the heat, humidity and perhaps a perception of what lay ahead, flared occasionally. August 31, 1886, was to be one of the most tragic in the history of Charleston and the Lowcountry.

Presumably the Society's members were at home with their families that night when St. Michael's bells tolled the hour of 9:45 o'clock and its peals brought no hint of the catastrophe that was just six minutes away. Children were mostly in bed and gas and kerosene lights burned throughout the city or winked out as families retired.

And then it came, beginning with a distant roar that caused the sleeping to wake, and the wake to start suddenly. The strollers along the Battery Promenade must have heard it first and stopped to wonder.

Then, in one cataclysmic second, the earth rolled like the sea beneath their feet. Another horrible wave of "LAND" threw some to the ground. For a horror-filled moment, the populace was mystified then the realization came. "Earthquake". The shouts rolled with the thunder of crashing buildings as they swayed now east, now west, and then collapsed.

Numbed citizens, most in night dress rushed from buildings. Many were crushed as they entered the street and were caught by falling walls, cornices and pillars. Superstitious Negroes, their fright giving birth to screams and prayers, flowed from hovels to open space. Animals, terrified, added their bellows, neighs and other sounds to the tumult.

As quickly as it had come, the earthquake subsided. A strange stillness, broken only by an occasional crashing wall, settled and then the cry arose again. These reached new peaks as 10:14 p.m. came, and another though lighter tremor shook the city sending further-weakened walls to the streets.

Sixteen minutes later, a third shock struck and that was the end of the actual quake, the "Great Earthquake of 1886". More than a million square miles had felt the blow. From Texas to Wisconsin and the Caribbean Islands reported the tremor, the center of which was exactly halfway between Charleston and Summerville. It was the greatest earthquake to hit the Eastern Hemisphere in history.

There are no entry for meetings of the Society in the minutes for September. The book there is as blank as the minds of many must have been who saw loved ones die or nursed their injured.

But on October 6, 1886, the Society met with barely a quorum present and the minutes of that black night, expressed the Society's prayer of thanks to The Almighty that none of the members suffered death or injury. Many, however, had lost heavily in property.

The minutes reported that because of "the distressed condition" of the city, it had been found imprudent to hold meetings. However, it is certain that THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, with the zeal and devotion that inspired its inception, did its part to alleviate the sufferings, not only of its members and their families, but to whomever sought its bounty.

Perhaps one of the reasons the meetings were not held was because most of the city's buildings were damaged so that it was unsafe to hold meetings in them, and it is recorded by the Masons that their Temple suffered structural damage.

The German American Bank failed in June, 1896, and the Society was yet to lose \$500 it had on deposit there but W. M. Fitch, a member, was retained as a lawyer and later managed to recover a portion of that amount.

Ex-president Gilliland was "honored to sit for my portrait" and at the same time, the society adopted a resolution that only one decanter of whiskey would be set before the weekly meetings.

In late 1896, the American Grocery Store sold the Society ten gallons of "fine whiskey" for the sum of \$38.63 and it was moved that more than one decanter could be served and the treasurer reported that he had bought \$500 in state bonds for \$106.50.

The 135th anniversary meeting was held at the Masonic Temple on March 10, 1897, and the following were elected: B. G. Mazyck, president; J. E. Burges, senior warden; W. G. Cleapor, junior warden; E. Burgess, secretary; and John Knox, treasurer. E. W. Gradick and Samuel J. Honour were named stewards.

The Society was now approaching the new 20th Century. Times were trying with another depression holding firm to the land but by judicious handling of finances, the Society continued to meet its Bounty obligations.

On February 10, 1899, Edward Perry, beloved ex-president, died. Born on January 9, 1834, he became a member of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY July 23, 1873, and was steward for five years and nine months, junior warden one year; senior warden one year and president, three years and eleven months.

Difficulties arose over the school situation in 1897 and moved Secretary Burgess to address the Society to the effect that the Society was allowed 30 pupils in the High School and 15 in the Normal (Girls) school.

"The Society," he said, "paid \$3,000 which completed the City of Charleston's allotment of \$10,000 required by the legislature. Had the Society not done this, the High and the Normal Schools would never have been built.

"At this time, we were paying the tuition of children of members who could not afford it in private schools. The Commissioner (Mr. Memminger) said we could place our children there regardless of how full the schools were.

"I am instructed to ask the board if we could have the privilege of placing five children in the High School for boys, deducting that number from the 15 for Normal School for girls.

"We, as the matter now stands, get no more result from our \$3,000 than anyone else. But by this new arrangement, we would not be given any greater number of pupils, but desire only the opportunity for a higher education for a small number of sons of the Society members."

Mr. Swinton conferred with the school board who reported that the request could not be granted since the High School was a state institution and lawfully, could not accept the boys.

A massive "brawl" occurred at a meeting on July 21, 1897, and at the next meeting, the membership was taken to task by President Mazyck. A contrite membership apologized to each other and fellowship was once more restored to THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

As the Twentieth Century dawned, President Mazyck was pleased to announce that the Society was pulling out of financial difficulties and at the anniversary meeting, the same officers were re-elected. Mr. Cleapor, for some unrecorded reason, resigned and in spite of the pleas of the Society, refused to withdraw his resignation.

President Mazyck continued in office at the annual meeting on March 13, 1901, and with him in office were R. C. Merritt, senior warden; George D. Rouse, junior warden; S. E. Burgess, secretary and treasurer. E. Escoffier and Oswald Reeder continued as stewards. A portrait of Samuel Seyle was ordered struck.

Very little of note occurred in the years between 1901 and 1904. The society ordered name plates for the portraits of presidents and others whose portraits were hung on the walls of the meeting rooms at the Masonic Temple.

Mazyck was re-elected president in 1903 at the 140th anniversary held at the Temple. R. C. Merritt was re-elected senior warden; Clarence Shokes, junior warden; S. E. Burges was again named secretary and treasurer, and Messers Escoffier and Harvey were re-named stewards.

Now the Society was to move into one of its more important years. It had never succeeded in constructing its own hospital. It had disposed (profitably) of lands at Hampstead and on Wentworth Street. It had never had its "own home".

The meeting of April 20, 1904, was attended by the following:
The officers, including the Rev. A. E. Cornish who for the first time as far as the minutes are concerned, had been named a chaplain of the society.

Also Henry Oliver, J. E. Burges, S. Klinck, Yates Snowden (The distinguished historian and teacher), H. M. Walker, J. D. Rouse and O. Reeder.

These members were designated as a committee to investigate the feasibility of purchasing a building "between Calhoun and Burns Lane on King Street." The committee was urged to act in all haste as "time is precious".

The following week, April 27, 1904, the Committee reported:

"Your committee appointed at the last meeting to look into the advisability of purchasing the building of Mr. W. J. Yates on the East side of King Street, three doors south of Calhoun Street, or any other building that might be suggested to us, have examined the building of Mr. Yates with the entire committee present.

"They have examined the property carefully and they think, that with a few changes, the building can be converted into a fine Hall for our use, and with judicious handling, could be made remunerative to the Society.

"The property can be purchased for the sum of \$6 000 this is, in our opinion, being a very reasonable amount for same. Therefore, an option for twenty days has been secured from Mr. Yates in order that the Society may have time to give the matter deliberate consideration.

"The property, taken altogether, is in very good condition. The store floor requires some repairs. A flight of stairs will be required from the second to the third story for use of tenants on the third floor and a water closet (toilet) will be needed on the second floor for the use of the Society. These are about the most costly improvements. Some painting and whitewashing will also be needed.

"With our need of a hall, and this opportunity presenting itself, your committee recommends the purchase" the committee report ended.

The recommendation was allowed to lie on the table until the last business of the night when it was ordered that the Society purchase the property by selling the necessary amount of securities owned by the Society.

In between the report and the action a solemn announcement was made. Judge Charles H. Swinton, ex-president and faithful member of the Fellowship Society, had died that day.

Member D. J. Baker rose and said "Mr. President and Gentlemen: .

"The people of Charleston mourn today because Judge Swinton is dead. This Society feels keenly the sorrow because he was once our president and has long been an honored member.

"As we look upon his portrait, which has for many years ornamented these walls, our minds are filled with the good deeds he has done. How numerous are great examples he has set for the guidance of his fellow members. I am satisfied now that one man can better a whole people "

The Society purchased the Hall at 370 King Street, made the required changes and on July 6, 1904, held its first meeting in its first home. It was the 143rd year of the organization's existence.

Strangely, little is mentioned of that first meeting in the new hall. President Mazyck, Samuel Burges, the secretary and treasurer, and Stewards Escoffier and Harvey were the only officers present.

Others attending that first meeting were Henry Oliver, B. H. Hollings, O. Reeder, A. H. Mazyck, J. E. Burges, Clarence Shokes, W. M. Fitch, G. E. Burges, John G. Chalk, W. G. Webb, Juel Burges, M. S. Klinck, C. J. Hillen, J. A. Hrithmacher and C. B. Colson. Mr. Fitch promptly, moved that a large hat-rack and cloak-rack be obtained a move that was seconded and ordered. He also asked for five more lights which was granted.

Later that year, the Society subscribed to the magazines Punch and Judge and continued to meet at its own hall. However, they sent their thanks to both the Masonic Temple House Committee and that of the Hibernian Society for their courtesies over the past years.

The Society participated in the ceremonies honoring arrival in November, 1905 of the Atlantic Navy Fleet which filled Charleston Harbor and was host to many of the ship's officers and men while the fleet was at anchor.

The Society lost two valued members early in 1906. They were James E. Burges, steward for two years, junior warden for two years and senior warden for two years. He died January 30.

On February 9, 1906, W. Kelsey Steedman, grandson of the martyred president and donor of his grandfather's picture, passed away.

R. C. Merritt was named president in that year, the 144th of the Society, and for, the first time, a Solicitor, Billy Baker, was added to the list of officers. Electric fans were ordered.

Two other members of the Society were to be lost before the year was over. Eletene Escoffier, steward, died December 2, preceded in death by James Mazyck who died June 26.

The Society continued its meetings uninterrupted through the early years of the Twentieth Century. Its members were, for the most part, untouched by the hurricane of 1911 though some did lose property.

Its financial growth continued as the world prepared for another war, this time to be on a global scale. Bank holdings were increased as well as stocks in utilities.

The 150th anniversary was celebrated in style with a handsome collation and much speaking at the hall on March 11, 1912. R. G. O'Neale, president, presided and George H. Momier, solicitor, assisted.

Theodore A. Honour, the oldest member of the Society and who had been a member for 50 years, died in March of 1913 at the ripe age of 82 years, just after the 151st anniversary meeting.

The worth of the Society at that time was \$27,595.68. At the meeting of August 6, 1913, A. A. Everett, the senior warden, rose to announce the death of the president of the Society, Robert G. O'Neale who had died August 1. G. -H. Momier then moved that out of respect for his memory, the meeting be adjourned and that an election be held at the next meeting to determine a successor. Page 33 of the Minute Book was inscribed in memoriam of the late 50-year old President and it was written that he was interred in Magnolia Cemetery.

A. A. Everett was elected president at the next meeting. T. B. McCarthy was named senior warden, and T. K. Jervey, junior warden.

It is obvious from his writings of the minutes that the secretary and treasurer, was now becoming infirm, and he records in his own shaky hand writing on August 20 1913, his 81st Birthday, that at the motion of G. H. Momier, he was presented a \$10 gift for his birthday. He records for himself that "The secretary and treasurer thanked the Society for their manifestations of their approval and wished the Society continued prosperity".

The Rev. Dr. G. J. Gongaware was named chaplain at the 152nd anniversary meeting. March 11, 1914. The most part of the world was then at war and no finer gentlemen could have been selected to handle the spiritual aspects of the society than Dr. Gongaware.

Moved by German atrocities in Belgium the Society voted at the meeting of January 20, 1915, to donate \$25 to the Belgium Relief Society. The motion was made by Meyer Frank and H. H. Ridgeway.

Just prior to the Anniversary Day that year, March 10, the Society voted to purchase a pool table, and the Society reported receipt of rents from E. R. Boone, \$18 and from J. H. Thiele, \$80.

On Anniversary Day, Thomas B. McCarthy was named president. T. K. Jervey was elevated to senior warden; H. M. Walker, junior warden and Mr. Burges, now in his 82nd year, was renamed secretary and treasurer. Mr. Momier was renamed solicitor and Dr. Gongaware, chaplain.

This was to be the last for the esteemed secretary and treasurer. His last writings told how on February 16, 1916, at the suggestion of Mr. Momier, the Society voted him a bonus of \$25. He pledged "renewed energy" in the performance of his duties. But Sam Burges had attended his last meeting of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY. On March 1st, he made his last entry in the minutes.

The next Wednesday, March 8 was Anniversary Day and the shaky handwriting of Burges had given way to that strong and forceful penmanship of George Momier who signed

himself, "acting secretary" and did the courtesy" of signing the name of Secretary Burges (per G. H. Momier).

Just nine days after the annual meeting, March 17, 1916, Samuel E. Burges died in the 83rd year of his age and was interred in Magnolia Cemetery.

With the exception of Memorials to the Founder, Edward Weyman, the martyr, Charles Steedman and the long-time president Richard Yeadon, perhaps no more space was devoted to a member in the minute books than to Samuel E. Burges:

"IN MEMORIAM"

"Mr. Samuel E. Burges, late secretary and treasurer, who departed this life on the 17th day of March, 1916.

"Only two weeks ago we assembled here to celebrate the 154th anniversary of this Society and we had no reason to believe that within this short period of time we would be called upon to mourn the death of Mr. Samuel E. Burges, our beloved secretary and treasurer.

"We remember how cheerful he was on that occasion and how happy he appeared to be when called to the Banquet Table to make a few remarks. He lived to reach the ripe age of eighty three years and had been a member of the Fellowship Society since February 12, 1868- a period of almost fifty years- and up until the time of his death, he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest living member of the Society.

"He was the secretary of the Society for twenty five years and treasurer for a period of sixteen years and he discharged the duties of these offices with fidelity and intelligence.

"His integrity and faithfulness in the trust imposed on him made him the model of a true man. There is no member of the Society more highly esteemed by us than he was.

"To borrow an apt illustration his life and his devotion to the duties of the offices held by him might be compared to a clock that goes on through the whole twenty four hours and to the very last beat.

"And at last, when the weight touches the floor, there is no loud noise, the pointers are there, the dial still shows its fair face, every wheel is in its place, the clock has simply run down and silently and quietly it stops.

"In the evening of his days, surrounded by a large and devoted family and with the honors of a useful career, he has passed away and we shall see his face no more in this hall."

George H. Momier, who wrote that tribute and who was solicitor for the society, was named to fill the unexpired term of Samuel E. Burges. A page to his memory, No. 109, is inscribed simply:

IN MEMORIAM
SAMUEL E. BURGESS
SECRETARY AND TREASURER
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
MARCH 17, 1916
AGE 83 YEARS
INTERMENT
MAGNOLIA CEMETERY

With most of the world at war, the Society's patriotism once again was marshaled and on June 28, 1916, (Flag day), it bedecked the front of its hall with flags of the country.

David B. Falk, a respected member died in Savannah, Ga., on August 29 and his widow, Mrs. Crissie Falk wrote the Society thanking them for their sympathy and saying she would be pleased to have the usual \$50 given widows "to donate to some worthy charity" in his name.

Twice in December of 1916, committees refused to recommend the purchase of a "talking machine" or an "electric piano" but it did vote to give ten dollars to the Charleston Santa Claus Association, an organization to provide Christmas for underprivileged children.

The Society was warmly thanked for its donation of fifty dollars to the Children's Ward at Roper Hospital by Mrs. Mary A. Waring, chairman of the Roper Hospital Auxiliary.

The 155th anniversary of the Society fell on March 14, 1917, and the following were elected:

T. B. McCarthy, president; T. K. Jerve, senior warden; J. E. Burges (son of Samuel) junior warden; George H. Momier, secretary; W. M. Walker, treasurer; William Austin, treasurer; and Dr. Gongaware, chaplain.

R. C. Tharin, at the business meeting at noon, called the Society's attention to the burial place of the Father and Founder of the Society, Edward Weyman and said that its location had been determined by William G. Mazyck.

At the banquet that night (the first recorded in the minutes as separate from the noon meetings), Mr. Mazyck told the Society he had found Weyman's grave at the entrance to the cemetery. For his services, he was made an honorary member, the first so recorded.

At the following meeting, Ex-President Meyer Frank, R. Tharin, J. E. Burges, H. M. Walker and Honorary Member Mazyck were named to a committee to suitably mark the founder's grave.

The Society, as it had contributed to its country financially in the Revolution, War of 1812 and the Civil War, was not to be found wanting in the World War. On May 30, 1917, it ordered its officers to purchase, to its financial limit, Liberty Bonds. Accordingly, an initial purchase of \$1,200 was made.

On February 13, 1918, the Society learned with alarm that Dr. Gongaware, its chaplain, had been offered a pastorate elsewhere and accordingly begged him to give the matter serious consideration-since his removal from the city would be a loss, not only to the Society, but to the whole community.

Because of the exigency of the times, it was suggested that a smoker be held instead of a banquet for the anniversary celebration and the Society, mindful that United States forces were locked in combat with the Germans in France, agreed.

T. K. Jerve was named to head the society at that meeting March 13, 1918, and with him were elected, J. E. Burges, senior warden; B. B. Lawrence, junior warden; George H. Momier, secretary; H. M. Walker, (the Society's oldest living member at the time), treasurer; William Austin, solicitor, and Dr. Gongaware (who had turned down the offer of a new pastorate), chaplain.

THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, on April 24, 1918, went on record as unqualifying endorsing the Third Liberty Loan so that "The Boys over there" who are unselfishly offering their lives for the purpose of upholding Democracy, may be given the support which every True American should give".

May 30th was observed, at the request of President Woodrow Wilson as a day of fasting and prayer by the Society and it subscribed a substantial sum to the American Red Cross at the same time.

The Society, the following week noted with sorrow that member D. B. Gilliland had died as a result of being struck by an automobile at Meeting and Broad Streets.

The Society corresponded with its members in the Armed Services during that year and also kept up its charitable and patriotic work.

No family of a member who was "Over there" suffered and the Society watched the outcome of the conflict. But at home, an unseen enemy was about to strike.

The dreaded "Spanish Influenza" had attacked and thousands were to die over the nation. Accordingly, on orders from the Board of Health prohibiting any meetings, none were held by the Society in October, 1918 except that of the 2nd when \$500 in the Fourth Liberty Bond sale was purchased.

The Society's next meeting was November 11, 1918-Armistice Day- and the organization celebrated at a special meeting called by President Jervey. He announced the fall of the German Empire and the end of the four horrible years of war.

Senior Warden Burges moved that a large portrait of President Woodrow Wilson "The Man of the Hour" be procured and hung in the hall and it was so ordered.

The Society's admiration for Woodrow Wilson was so great that it carried over into 1919 and on the Anniversary Day, at a smoker held in lieu of a banquet, "The Man of the Hour" was unanimously elected an honorary member.

The Society, needing a rear entrance, on October 1, 1919, authorized the purchase of property in Burns Lane that would lead to the rear of the King Street property, and \$5,000 was made available for that purpose. This was accomplished by October 15.

The 158th annual meeting was held at the Fellowship Hall, March 10, 1920; and J. E. Burges was named president. B. B. Lawrence was elevated to the senior warden post; H. K. Livingston to junior warden; George H. Momier, secretary; H. M. Walker, treasurer; H. M. Austin, solicitor and, of course, Dr. Gongaware, chaplain.

President Burges was in Washington at the time of the 159th annual meeting, but he telegraphed his regrets and best wishes and was, therefore, re-elected president. All other officers of the preceding year were also re-elected. Though in a wheelchair, Elderly Col. James Armstrong, an honorary member and dear friend of the Society attended.

A page in the minutes is inscribed to J. Elmore Martin, a member of the Society and sheriff of Charleston County, who died July 14, 1921.

The Society met routinely for the rest of 1921 and so approached its 160th anniversary, March 8, 1922, in fine financial shape. At the noon business meeting, R. C. Tharin was named president. H. K. Livingston was elected senior warden and C. A. Svedburg, junior warden. George Momier continued as secretary and H. M. Walker as treasurer. William Austin and Dr. Gongaware retained the posts of solicitor and chaplain, respectively.

Mr. Tharin was succeeded by H. K. Livingston the following year at the annual meeting held March 14, 1923. C. A. Svedburg moved up to Senior warden and W. H. Harvey to Junior warden. Mr. Momier, Mr. Walker and Dr. Gongaware were re-elected to their posts.

President Svedburg, H. H. Ridgeway, the senior warden; George H. Momier, the esteemed secretary; H. M. Walker, the old and trusted treasurer; and William Austin, the solicitor, ruled the Society through the peaceful and uneventful years of 1924-25 and Mr. Svedburg, now infirm" was succeeded at the 164th Anniversary Day meeting by Mr. Ridgeway as president.

With Mr. Ridgeway was elected C. J. Walker, senior warden; J. C. Muller, junior warden; Mr. Momier, secretary; H. M. Walker, treasurer; and William Austin, solicitor.

The Society invested \$7,000 in bonds during the year and on the annual day, March 9, 1927, the following were elected or re-elected:

H. H. Ridgeway, president; J. C. Muller, senior warden; M. Edmondson, junior warden; George H. Momier, secretary; H. M. Walker, treasurer, and William Austin, solicitor.

The letters of E. T. Heyward and P. E. Wilbur were read and approved, April 13, 1927 and on June 20, of that year, ex-president Julius E. Burges died, being preceded in death on June 5, by J. Waring Whitsell.

J. C. Muller was named to the presidency at the annual meeting, March 7, 1928. B. M. Edmondson was elected senior warden; E. Taliafero Heyward, junior warden, and Mr. Momier, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Austin were returned to the posts of secretary, treasurer and solicitor respectively. These same officers were re-elected the following anniversary day.

Col. James Armstrong, long an honorary and honored member of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY, died, August 15, 1930.

E. T. Heyward, still very active in the society, was named president at the Anniversary meeting, March 11, 1931. J. E. Wilcox was elected senior warden; Clarence S. Cochran, (also still active in the Society), junior warden; and Mr. Momier and Mr. Walker were renamed to their usual posts.

Though the last few pages may seem routine as to the Society's functions, it continued to serve the purpose for which it was formed. The Society donated money to the flood victims of the Ohio River Valley that year. It paid transportation for crippled children from the Shriner's Crippled Children Hospital in Greenville, to Charleston.

But by now, the depression of the Thirties had caught up with the Society. The Peoples State Bank had closed and Ex-President J. C. Muller, the treasurer, was authorized to deposit the funds of the Society in the Atlantic National Bank of Charleston and he was also authorized to rent a locked box at that bank in which to deposit the Society's securities.

Ex-President R. C. Tharin, concerned as to the Society's liability as a stockholder in the South Carolina National Bank, moved and it was so ordered, that the Solicitor investigate and report back at the meeting of January 13, 1932, as to the Society's involvement.

J. Douglas Rissell, a member, on February 17, 1932, recommended that the society have its hall and steps painted and it was so ordered. B. M. Edmondson received the sympathy of the Society on the death of his brother, and Ex-President R. C. Tharin was made a life member.

The Society, like the rest of the nation, found the depression closing in but gained some hope from the positive actions taken by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.

Clarence S. Cochran was elevated to the presidency at the annual meeting held March 14, 1934, and took into office with him, Percy E. Wilbur, senior warden; R. C. Tharin, ex-president who campaigned for the post, as junior warden; Mr. Mormer as secretary and H. M. Walker as treasurer.

William Austin, esteemed former solicitor and long a member, died on June 29 of that year and a page to his memory was inscribed in the minute books.

Mr. Cochran continued to lead the Society when he was re-elected on Annual Day, March 13, 1935. All other officers were also re-elected at that meeting.

A number of persons made short addresses at the annual meeting that night, including Dr. Norman S. Lee, president of the Hibernian Society, and L. Buist Davidson, first vice-president of the St. Andrew's Society.

Ex-president Heyward, commenting on the decrease in membership since the depression began, said that frankly, he was glad the club had grown smaller, since "the smaller the club, the greater the fellowship".

Older members agreed with Mr. Heyward but the younger members disagreed in a pleasant discussion.

Thomas B. McCarty succeeded Mr. Cochrane at the annual meeting, March 11, 1936, but Mr. Cochrane continued to serve the Society in the post of treasurer, a post he holds today.

Mr. Wilbur was re-elected senior warden and Louis D. Lesemann junior warden. Mr. Momier continued as secretary.

It was not the first term of office for Mr. McCarthy who was at the time, a city alderman. He had held the post four times before - in 1915, 1916 and 1917.

He and the other officers were re-elected the following year the 175th of the Society, at the annual meeting, March 10, 1937 and that night, at the annual banquet, he spoke briefly of his association.

Member Edward K. Pritchard gave a brief history of the organization and called for a continuance of its charities and fellowship.

Percy E. Wilbur succeeded President McCarthy on the 176th anniversary, March 10, 1938, and Louis D. Lesemann was moved up to senior warden. Virgil D. Svendsen became junior warden, and Mr. Momier and Mr. Cochrane retained their posts as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

On May 18, 1938, the Society discussed the possibility of having the records copied by Professor J. H. Ecsterby under the provisions of the Works Progress Administration but a move for such action was defeated.

The same officers were re-elected at the next annual meeting, March 8, 1939 and the Society noted that the Alhambra Club, which had rented a portion of the property had become so noisy that it was necessary to put the operators of the club on notice.

The city and the Society was recovering from the depression but at the price of arming for defense as Germany took over nation after nation and finally invaded Poland in September.

So it was during feverish times that Louis D. Lesemann was elected president at the 178th annual meeting, March 13, 1940. He was visiting in New York at the time of the meeting and having decided to make his home in New York, promptly resigned with regrets.

Elected with him were Virgil D. Svendsen, senior warden; Howard H. Lamar, junior warden; and Mr. Momier and Mr. Cochrane to their usual posts.

On receipt of President Lesemann's resignation, Mr. Svendsen was moved to president on March 27; Mr. Lamar moved to senior warden, and Michael L. Runey, nominated by Mr. W. O. Bee, was named junior warden. The posts of secretary and treasurer were still held by Mr. Momier and Mr. Cochrane. It was the 24th consecutive year Mr. Momier had been elected.

These officers were re-elected at the 179th meeting, March 12, 1941, and G. L. Buist Rivers made a stirring patriotic address at the banquet that night in Fellowship Hall.

At the same banquet, Ben Scott Whaley, Assistant U. S. District Attorney, briefly traced the history of the Society and Francis B. McDowell, president of the German Friendly Society, and William A. O'Brien, president of the Hibernian Society, were recognized.

Ex-President Percy Wilbur died December 10, 1941, and as is customary, a page of the minute book was inscribed to his memory.

The United States was at War with Germany and Japan, and Charleston was overrun with servicemen when Howard H. Lamar was named president at the 180th anniversary meeting,

March 11, 1942. Michael Runey was named senior warden and Mars C. Costa, junior warden. George H. Momier began his 25th year as secretary and Clarence S. Cochrane was again named treasurer. The same officers were re-elected March 10, 1943, but there was little gaiety at the annual meeting because of privations caused by the conflict. Many of the members had sons, brothers or relatives overseas or in camps in the country and other members were away at war themselves.

At that annual meeting, it was decided to sell the property owned by the Society in Burns Lane to Cambridge T. Lawrence and William Sinclair Rivers for \$5,000. This property was to become a part of a club known as The Helene Curtis Lounge.

The Society continued to invest heavily in war bonds and on March 8, 1944, it elected Michael L. Runey as its president. Mars C. Costa was named senior warden and Elias T. Holcombe was selected as junior warden. George H. Momier began his 26th year as secretary and Clarence S. Cochrane continued, as treasurer, to keep the accounts of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY.

They were all re-elected at the annual meeting March 14, 1945, under much happier circumstances since the end of the war, in Europe at least, was in sight.

W. H. Harvey died on June 20, 1945.

The meeting of August 15, 1945, was not held. Inscribed in the minutes book is simply that "The president today announced :the end of the war. No quorum was present and no meeting held."

Mars C. Costa succeeded Michael L. Runey as president at the annual meeting, March 13, 1946. Elected with him were Elias T. Holcombe, senior warden; Henry M. Lilienthal, junior warden and Mr. Momier and Mr. Cochrane to their usual positions.

Mr. Cochrane, on February 26, 1947, announced that he would be unable to run for office again since he was out of the city so frequently.

So, on the 185th anniversary of the Society, March 12, 1947, he was succeeded by Michael L. Runey as treasurer. President Costa; senior warden Holcombe, junior warden Lilienthal, and secretary Momier were re-elected.

Two deaths struck the Society that year when Jacob C. Muller, a past president, died on April 22, and Member Julius H. Jahnz died on June 1.

Mr. Momier, his handwriting showing the effects of his age, resigned his long service on July 2, amid the regrets of the entire membership, and Maurice J. Quinliven was named to succeed him.

T. Wilbur Thornhill, the speaker at the 186th annual meeting banquet, March 10, 1948, called the Society's attention to the potential danger from Russia.

At the noon meeting, Elias T. Holcombe was named president, succeeding Mars C. Costa. Henry M. Lilienthal was named senior warden; Maurice J. Quinliven, secretary and Michael L. Runey, treasurer. George H. Momier's name once more appeared among the officers. He was elected solicitor.

Mayor William McG. Morrison of Charleston was the guest of honor at the banquet on the 187th Annual Day, March 9, 1949. And E. Fleming Mason, special agent of the FBI, the guest speaker, warned that espionage was not dead and said that the average American had not enough respect for the work of law enforcement officers and for those in intelligence activities connected with subversion.

President Holcombe; senior warden Lilienthal; junior warden John J. Meeks; treasurer Michael L. Runey; and solicitor George H. Momier were re-elected. Maurice J. Quinlivan did not run for secretary and he was succeeded by Julian K. Johns.

The Society noted its pleasure at having accepted an invitation the preceding April 28, to the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Momier at their home, 47 Smith Street.

Henry M. Lilienthal was elected president at the annual meeting, March 9, 1950, along with John J. Meeks, senior warden; Maurice J. Quinlivan was named junior warden; Michael L. Runey, treasurer; and Mr. Momier, solicitor.

Samuel G. Stoney, Charleston author, told of old Charleston and ended his address with a Gullah story. Sheriff Chester N. Perry and Mayor Morrison also made brief addresses.

Cullen Landis, film star who was in Charleston to direct an Army training motion picture, was guest speaker at the 189th annual banquet March 14, 1951. The banquet followed a noon meeting at which all officers, with Henry Lilienthal as president, were re-elected.

John J. Meeks headed the Society after the business meeting of the 190th anniversary day, March 12, 1952. Maurice J. Quinlivan was named senior warden; Vincent M. French, junior warden; Julian K. Johns, secretary, and George H. Momier, solicitor.

The main speaker at the annual banquet that night was George C. Rogers, superintendent of Charleston Schools. He recounted the role the Society had long played in the educational life of the city and said that the \$3,000 donated to the school system in 1858, had assured adequate schooling for the children of the city.

Mr. Meeks continued to head the Society in 1953 and had as fellow officers, B. M. Edmondson was named senior warden; Vincent M. French was named junior warden, R. E. Molony was named secretary and M. L. Runey and George H. Momier, treasurer and solicitor respectively. Charleston lawyer J. C. Long was the speaker at the banquet that night - March 11.

B. M. Edmondson was elected president on March 10, 1954, the 192nd anniversary of the founding of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY. Others elected included Vincent M. French, senior warden; Julian K. Johns, junior warden; R. E. Molony, secretary, and Mr. Runey and Mr. Momier to their usual posts,

The speaker was Russell D. Long, program director for Radio Station WCSC, who outlined the operation of such a station.

The highlight of the 194th annual meeting on March 9, 1955 was the naming of W. O. Bee and George H. Momier; life members. Both had been members of the Society for more than a half-century and both had served it well.

All officers. were re-elected and the banquet speaker that night was Lieutenant Governor Ernest F. Hollings, who spoke on state government and the development of schools.

George Henry Momier, respected Charleston lawyer and devoted member of the Fellowship Society, died July 24, 1955, In the ,81st year of his age. He was buried in Bethany Cemetery with seinor warden Vincent M. French and ex-presidents Clarence S. Cochrane and E. T. Holcombe among the pallbearers.

He had been practicing law for more than 60 years and had been a member of the South Carolina General Assembly in 1915 and 1916.

Mr. French was elected president at the 195th annual meeting, March 14, 1956. Julian K. Johns was named senior warden; Robert E. Molony, junior warden; M. Otis Spyers, secretary, and Michael L. Runey, was renamed treasurer. William S. Hope was named solicitor. Harry Gianaris, public relations counsel, spoke on the Bushy Park Water Development.

Early in the summer of 1955, the demolition of the old Marx Building to the north of THE FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY'S property was begun by the Skinner & Ruddock Company to make room for the new W. T. Grant Building.

In June, House Committee Chairman H. M. Lilienthal, on an inspection trip of the building, noticed that since the south wall of the Marx Building had been toppled, the north wall of Fellowship Hall had begun to leak. He accordingly brought this to the attention of the House Committee and they to the membership.

W. S. Hope, the Society's solicitor, suggested that correspondence between the Society and Skinner & Ruddock with a view to correcting the situation and this was done. Offers and counter offers continued for several weeks and at last, because rules did not permit a special meeting being called under the circumstances, an informal meeting was called and was well attended. At the meeting, the membership was informed that E. G. Skinner, head of the construction firm, had offered to complete repairs to the satisfaction of the House Committee.

In addition, he had promised to remove an old stairway that lead to the unused third floor and substitute a disappearing stairway. The Society then discussed the feasibility of having the front of the building at 370 and 370½ King Street remodeled.

Mr. Skinner, who incidentally a little later became a member, submitted a bid of \$1,930 and at the next regular meeting, both the offer for repairs to the north wall and the bid on remodeling was accepted.

Mr. Lilienthal, who resigned as House Committee chairman because of the press of personal business, nevertheless, rode herd on the work and reported in subsequent meetings that it was proceeding satisfactorily and it was at last completed. He was succeeded as House Committee chairman by J. J. Meeks.

Julian K. Johns was named president at the 196th annual meeting, March 13, 1957, and Robert E. Molony was promoted to senior warden. M. Otis Spyres was re-named secretary and Michael L. Runey and Wilham S. Hope as treasurer and solicitor. David Frank Miles was subsequently elected junior warden. Jefferson D. Bates, state treasurer, was the banquet speaker.

President Johns and the same slate of officers were re-elected at the annual meeting, May 7, 1958, and the president traced the history of the organization at the annual banquet that night. He noted that the Society was meeting for its 10,200th time.

Robert E. Molony was elected to head the Society at the annual business meeting, March 10, 1959. David F. Niles was named senior warden. Robert N. Bennett was made junior warden, and M. Otis Spyres was renamed secretary. Clarence S. Cochrane returned to the officers' list by being named treasurer and Michael L. Runey replaced William S. Hope as solicitor.

Col. James W. Duckett, registrar at The Citadel, was the banquet speaker and called for a rebirth in the education of scientist if we were to win the cold war over Russia.

The 198th annual meeting was held March 9, 1960, and Robert E. Molony and the other officers from the preceding year were re-elected. The annual banquet was held at the Fort Sumter Hotel with Daniel R. McLeod, South Carolina Attorney General as the speaker.

Lt. Gov. Burnet R. Maybank was the principle speaker at the 199th annual banquet, March 8, 1961, when the banquet was again held at the Fort Sumter Hotel.

At the business meeting held earlier in the day, David Frank Miles was selected to guide the Society into its 200th year. Robert N. Bennett was named senior warden; A. C. H. Bullwinkle, junior warden; C. A. Adams, secretary; Clarence S. Cochran, treasurer, and Michael L. Runey, solicitor.